JOURNAL

OF THE

CEYLON BRANCH

OF THE

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

1881-82.

VOLUME VII.

EDITED BY THE HONORARY SECRETARY.

"THE DESIGN OF THE SOCIETY IS TO INSTITUTE AND PROMOTE INQUIRIES INTO THE HISTORY RELIGION, LITERATURE, ARTS, AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PRESENT AND FORMER INHABITANTS OF THE ISLAND, WITH ITS GEOLOGY, MINERALOGY, ITS CLIMATE AND METEOROLOGY, ITS BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY."

COLOMBO.

THE "TIMES OF CEYLON" PRESS.

1884.

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PROCEEDINGS

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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY,

CEYLON BRANCH.

PROCEEDINGS,

1881.

COLOMBO:

GEORGE J. A. SKEEN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CEYLON.

1882.

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PROCEEDINGS.—1881.

COMMITTEE MEETING,
February 2, 1881.

Present:

The Hon. Colonel A. B. Fyers, R.E., President, in the Chair.

J. Capper, Esq., | Revd. E. F. Miller, M.A.,
W. Ferguson, Esq., | J. G. Smither, Esq.,
H. J. MacVicar, Esq., | J. L. Vanderstraaten, Esq, M.D.,

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

1.—Read and confirmed Minutes of last Meeting,

2.—The Hon. Secretary stated, that on assuming duties he found that the "Proceedings" of the Society had not been published (with the exception of the President's Address for 1879, printed in the Journal for 1880, Part I.) since 1873-4. He proposed to issue shortly in pamphlet form the "*Proceedings*, 1875 to 1880."* An effort would be made in future to publish the Society's "*Proceedings*" regularly at the close of each year.—*Approved.*

3.—With reference to the long delay in the issue of a new Catalogue of the C. A. S. Library, the Hon. Secretary laid before the Meeting a rough manuscript Catalogue, on which the Librarian of the Museum had been long engaged, and expressed his opinion that, if printed in its present form, it would be unsuited to fulfil the purpose of sure and ready reference. Under the circumstances it was hoped that additional delay for the preparation of a satisfactory Catalogue would be held justifiable. The Hon. Secretary consented to devote such attention to this work, as leisure might allow him.

4.—The Meeting was informed that the stock of several back Numbers of the Society's Journal had become exhausted—not a single copy remaining even in the C. A. S. Library,—viz., 1848-9; 1849-50; 1853 (1 pt.); 1856 8 (2 pts.); 1858-9; 1860-1; 1870-1. The Honorary Secretary had addressed Government (January 13th), with a view to obtaining permission for the said Journals to be reprinted at the Government Press, from copies kindly placed at his service by D. Ferguson, Esq., and the boon had been readily granted (January 20th).

5.—In order to put an end to the present confusion arising from the irregular numbering and paging of past Journals, it was suggested

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* Issued in March, 1881.

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by the Hon. Secretary that the Committee should once for all sanction an authoritative numbering and division of the series.

Approved, and the matter left entirely in the hands of the Hon. Secretary. *

6.—The Hon. Secretary stated that on going over the Books, &c., belonging to the Library, he discovered that a large proportion required immediate binding or rebinding, and moved for a special vote under this head.

The Committee sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 200, to be devoted to this object.

7.—It was notified by the Hon. Secretary that, in accordance with Resolution 2, passed at the Committee Meeting held July 16th, 1880, the Sub-Committee had met, and selected new Books for the Library to the value of £50; and that the order had been sent to Messrs. Trübner & Co.

8.—A General Meeting was decided to be held in April, prior to Col. Fyers' departure to England.

It was announced that several Members had promised Papers.

General Meeting.

April 7, 1881.

Present:

The Hon. Colonel Fyers, R.E., President, in the Chair.

G. Wall, Esq., Vice-Presd.	E. F. Perera, Esq.,
J. Capper, Esq.,	Hon. P. Ráma-Náthan,
W. Ferguson, Esq.,	W. P. Raṇasiṇha, Esq.,
S. Green, Esq.,	J. G. Smither, Esq.,
A. Murray, Esq., Honorary Treasurer.	H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

1.—The Minutes of the last Meeting (Annual) were read and confirmed.

2.—The following new Members were then duly elected:—

G. A. Baumgartner, Esq., C.C.S.	A. Jayawardana, Mudaliyár,
C. Bruce, Esq.,	J. D. Mason, Esq., C.C.S.
S. M. Burrows, Esq., C.C.S.	L. O. Pyemont-Pyemont, Esq., C.C.S.
P. Dias Baṇḍaranáyaka, Mahá-Mudaliyár,	J. G. Wardrop, Esq.,
W. H. G. Duncan, Esq.,	H. White, Esq., C.C.S.
C. P. Hall, Esq.,	W. T. Wragg, Esq., C.C.S.

* Journal since consecutively numbered, divided into Volumes, and "Summary" issued by Honorary Secretary.

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The following gentlemen were re-admitted as Members :—

J. Loos, Esq., M.D., H. Nevill, Esq., C.C.S., and G. E. Worthington, Esq., C.C.S.

3.—The Hon. Secretary announced that the new Books for the C. A. S. Library, ordered in February from Messrs. Trübner & Co., were on their way out. He also laid on the table a list of Books, &c., presented to, or purchased by, the Society since the Annual Meeting in December, 1880.

4.—The following Papers were then read :—

i.—*Hindú Astronomy as compared with the European science,* by S. MERVIN, Esq.

ii.—*Some sculptured ruins at Horaṇa,* by J. G. SMITHER, Esq.

iii.—*Gold in Ceylon: a sketch,* by A. C. DIXON, Esq.

iv.—*Specimens of Siṇhalese proverbs,* by L. DE ZOYZA, Mahá-Mudaliyár.

v.—*Ceylon Bee culture,* by S. JAYATILAKA, Mudaliyár.

In the absence of the authors Papers iii. and v. were read by the Hon. Secretary, and Paper iv. by W. P. Raṇasiṇha, Esq.

Mr. G. Wall initiated a very interesting critical discussion regarding the asserted discovery of the laws of gravitation before Sir Isaac Newton's time.

5.—The Hon. the Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had sent in Papers.—*Carried nem. con.*

6.—The President (Hon. Colonel A. B. Fyers, R.E)., announced his contemplated immediate departure for England, adding that during his absence, George Wall, Esq., Vice-President, would assume the Chair.

7.—The Hon. the Chairman proposed that the following gentlemen be invited to become *Honorary Members* :—

(*a*) L. De Soyza, Mahá-Mudaliyár.

(*b*) M. M. Künté.

Seconded by George Wall, Esq., and *unanimously carried.*

8.—A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by G. Wall, Esq., and seconded by J. G. Smither, Esq., concluded the Meeting.

Copies of the "*Summary of C. A. S Journals,* 1845-1880," just compiled by the Hon. Secretary, (Vide Resolution 5, Committee Meeting, February 2nd, 1881), were distributed among Members.

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Additions to Library.

Bálagrahasántiya (Siŋhalese)—*From Author.*

Classified Index to the Sanscrit MSS. in the Palace at Tanjúr Part 3rd.

Dásayura, Ocean of Verbal roots, The, 1880. (Siŋhalese).—*From Author.*

Dípawaŋsa, The—*Presented by Ceylon Government.*

Drama of Princess Rolina, 1879, (Siŋhalese).
Ganitasástraya, Arithmetic (Siŋhalese).
Hindú Chronology and Antediluvian History.
} *From Authors.*

Journal of the R.A.S. of Bengal, Vol. XLIX, Part I, No. IV., 1880.
Do. do. do. Part II. No. III., 1880.
Do. do. do. Part II. No. IV., 1880.
} *From R. A. S. Bengal.*

Lepidoptera of Ceylon, (Moore) Parts I. and II., 1881.—*Presented by Ceylon Government.*

Malwarapatalaya and Bálagrahasántiya (Siŋhalese).—*From Author.*

Níti Nighanduva, (English and Siŋhalese).—*Presented by Ceylon Government.*

Notes upon a Denarius of Augustus Cæsar.—*Presented.*

Our Colony.—*From Author.*

Proceedings of the R. A. S. Bengal, July, 1880.
Do. do. August, 1880.
Do. do. November, 1880.
Do. do. January, 1881.
} *From R. A. S. Bengal.*

Report on the Amarávati Tope, &c., Excavations on its site in 1877.
Sanscrit Manuscripts of the Mahá-Rájá of Bikaner.
} *Presented.*

Sásanavaŋsa Dípo (Páli)
Simálakana Dípani (Páli)
} *From Author.*

Transactions of the R. A. S. Japan, Vol. 8, Part III., 1880.
Do. do. Vol. 8, Part IV., 1880.
Do. do. Vol. 9, Part I., 1880.
} *From R.A.S. Japan.*

Vinayapiṭakam, Vols. I, II.—*Presented by Ceylon Government.*

We were enabled to report but briefly the meeting of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society held at the Museum yesterday. It was a pity that more Members were not present, as the Papers read were interesting. Those Papers were, however, too numerous to allow of free discussion upon them.

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The first Paper read was by Mr. S. Mervin, a Jaffna Tamil, upon "*Hindú Astronomy as compared with the European science.*" The reader spent some time in apologising for his lack of eloquence and learning, and then read extracts from his Paper. The study of Astrology, he said, was cultivated by the immediate descendants of Adam; Josephus informed us that the sons of Seth were engaged in studying Astronomy. From the Egyptians the science passed to the Greeks. It seemed to have gone from Chaldea to India and China 2,000 years B.C. The records of the efforts of the early Indian Astronomers were, however, wrapt in obscurity. At first the Hindús thought the earth was round, and that the eclipses of the moon were caused by the earth's shadow. Some, however, maintained that the earth, though round, was at rest in the centre. A few believed that the earth was flat. Mr. Mervin then referred to the principles put forward by Ptolemy, and proceeded to show that Hindú astronomy was very different from its mythology. After a short dip into Hindú mythology he turned more directly to the real subject of the paper. Many doctrines of Hindú astronomy, he said corresponded with European science. The laws of gravitation were known to the Hindús long before Sir Isaac Newton's time. The Hindús believed ages ago that the atmosphere extended 60 miles from the earth, and he reminded them that European science had decided that the atmosphere could not extend more than 50 or 60 miles. He quoted from several old Tamil works to show that a great many years ago the Hindús held very similar opinions as to the planets as those held by the Europeans of to-day.

Mr. George Wall, (after one or two Members had expressed their interest in the Paper read) said he presumed that no one would imagine that any facts stated touching the alleged discovery of the laws of gravitation before Sir Isaac Newton's time were true. That the movements of the planets were well known was of course admitted, as they were mentioned in the old astronomical books and in the Scriptures. Facts of observation were very different from those laws which govern the movements of planets. He concluded that Mr. Mervin did not profess to state that the laws of gravitation were really known by the ancient Hindús. If such an allegation were made for a moment, the fact that the Hindús thought that the sun revolved round the earth would explode the idea. That one fact was sufficient to show that the laws of gravitation were not in the slightest degree understood in olden times by the Hindús. He was quite aware that the ancients had a pretty accurate knowledge of the movements of the planets, but they did not know the causes. About the time of the transit of Venus a very learned gentleman in Colombo said to him that he could not understand why the Government were taking so many observations and spending so much money and trouble in doing so, seeing that they knew exactly when the transit would take place. When the speaker told this gentleman that they did not yet know what distance Venus and the sun were from the earth, which it was very important to ascertain, he was quite astonished. They could easily tell the exact time shown by the town clock in the tower, but they could not so easily tell the exact diameter of the face. They know the exact movements and causes of the eclipses, but the laws of gravitation were a profound secret till the days of Sir Isaac Newton.

Mr. Smither then read his Paper upon "*Some ruins at Horana.*"

Mr. H. C. P. Bell (Hon Sec.) read Mr. A. C. Dixon's Paper on "*Gold in Ceylon.*"

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A few "*Siṇhalese proverbs*," from a large number of specimens by L. De Zoyza, Mahá-Mudaliyár, were read by Mr. Raṇasiṇha, in the absence of the Mahá-Mudaliyár.

Samuel Jayatilaka Mudaliyár's Paper on "*Bee Culture in Ceylon*" was read by the Hon. Secretary.

The Hon. the Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to those gentlemen who had written or read Papers. He said that they had had such a number of Papers that it had been almost impossible to pause and discuss the merits of any of them. He quite concurred with the remarks of Mr. Wall as to the knowledge of the Hindús as to gravitation. Upon such a point they might have had a free discussion had there been time.

Mr. Wall remarked that he was not quite clear whether Mr. Mervin wished to imply that the Hindús really understood the laws of gravitation. He proceeded (to Mr. Mervin): "Do we understand that your belief is that the laws of gravitation, as propounded and explained by Newton, were understood by the ancient Hindús?"

Mr. Mervin: "As in other cases the *principle* was understood by the Hindús, but not as improved and made perfect since in the form of a system. The *principle* was understood."

The Hon. P. Ráma-Náthan: "The idea is that the Hindús should be credited with having conceived the first ideas of the laws of gravitation."

Mr. Wall: "But none of the extracts he has read bear him out: rather the opposite. The figures as to the dimensions of the earth and the times of the eclipses were ascertained by observation without any knowledge of the laws of gravitation whatever. The fact that a year consists of 365 days and so many hours could be ascertained without any knowledge of the laws of astronomy. No doubt astronomical observations were carried to a very high degree of perfection and for a very great period of time, but there has not been anything said to show that the laws or principles of gravitation were ever propounded before Sir Isaac Newton discovered them. People may find out by observation that a clock goes, and also find out what the movements indicate, but that does not prove what works the inside of it."

Mr. Mervin, to illustrate his meaning, remarked that algebra was in existence among the Hindús ages since, but not in such perfection as among Europeans of the present day. And so attraction or gravitation was known to the Hindús. He did not say the *laws* of gravitation were known to perfection.

Mr. Wall: "But it is the *law* which is everything in this case."

Mr. Mervin: "It says in one of the passages I read that 'the earth is standing by its own inherent force.' What is meant by 'inherent force?'"

Mr. Wall: "The idea of gravitation first of all is shown with bodies having no motion. They must derive their motion from something. The first step towards gravitation is that bodies do not move at all unless they are moved by something. The facts were known, but your facts were obtained by observation, while Sir Isaac Newton's theory was laid down, whereby those facts could be confirmed and understood. Sir Isaac laid aside for 20 years his idea of the laws of gravitation because they did not agree with observation. No one had the slightest conception of the theory till Sir Isaac found it out. Then the whole thing became clear. The facts

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of observation were constantly coming into contact with the theory. The laws of gravitation required that certain motions should take place by a certain planet while the facts of observation were utterly opposed to it. It was afterwards discovered that there was another planet existing beyond the one expected to change, and upon which it acted. Thus the further planet was discovered. The law of gravitation was one theory, simply enounced; not a gradually worked out fact like geometry, about which there is no principle. The law of gravitation as discovered by Newton has never been altered. When, apparently, facts were opposed to it, as in the case of the new planet, further observations by the aid of the most complete instruments have shown that the laws of gravitation were perfectly correct, the apparently contradictory facts being explained after observation. No ancient Hindú, as far as at present known, ever had the slightest inkling of knowledge of those laws. None of their facts required a knowledge of those laws."

The subject then dropped.*

The Hon. the Chairman said that was the last Meeting at which he would be present for some time, as he was about to leave for England. It was very gratifying to be able to leave the Society in such a flourishing state.

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* Mr. Mervin subsequently published the following letter in the columns of the *Observer* :—

Dear Sir,—A portion of the Essay on Hindú Astronomy read by me at the Asiatic Society Meeting of the 7th instant, runs—"The laws of gravitation were known to the Hindús long before Sir Isaac Newton was born." The Hindú Astronomer Báskara-ásáriyár was born in the year 1114, A.D., and composed the treatise called "Siddhánta Sirómaṇi" in 1150. In the 6th verse of the 3rd chapter of that book, the author says :—"The property of attraction is inherent in the earth. By this property, the earth attracts any unsupported heavy thing towards it. The thing appears to be falling, but it is in a state of being drawn to the earth," &c.

Sir Isaac Newton was born in the year 1642, A. D., and made the discovery of the laws of gravitation in 1703.

Does not the above quoted verse elicit that attraction of gravitation (if not the laws thereof) was known to Báskara-ásáriyár 492 years before Newton was born? Why should any one hesitate to acknowledge this? I do not say that the laws of gravitation *in their entirety* were known to the Hindús. If one believes that the above verse was written by Báskara-ásáriyár, could he doubt that the principles of attraction were known to him?

Should it be said that Báskara-ásáriyár knew this merely from his observation, and not scientifically, the Hindús would say that even so much was not known to the western nations before Sir Isaac Newton's time; for Sir Isaac deduced the attraction from his observation of the fall of an apple. Is it not clear that no European that lived before him did ever observe the fall of an apple, and therefrom deduce the earth's attractive power? Most sciences and arts are discovered by observation. Man derives his knowledge from observation, conversation, reading and meditation; observation being the first medium. It is therefore no wonder that Báskara-ásáriyár

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During his absence, Mr. Wall, the Vice-President, would assume the Chair, and he was sure Mr. Wall would take an interest in everything affecting the Society, and contribute by his well stored mind to its benefit. He thanked the Members for the confidence shown in him by his being elected upon so many occasions as President, and assured them that he should always have the welfare of the Society at heart. At home he hoped to be of any use possible. He should try to get such Books, &c, as the Hon. Secretary might wish to obtain. He desired before leaving to recommend one very old Member who had held various offices in the Society the Mahá-Mudáliyár, Louis De Zoyza, for nomination as an *Honorary Member*, coupling with his name that of Professor M. Künté, who had lectured to them, sent Papers, and promised to send more.

Mr. G. Wall seconded, although, as he remarked, the proposal did not need a seconder, coming from the Chair. He wished at the same time to propose a vote of thanks to the Society's "restorer," Col. Fyers, as the Colonel had certainly fulfilled that part. The Society was in a dormant state till Col. Fyers took that lively interest in it which had revived it to its present position. He (Mr. Wall) had been a witness of the Society's career, and was only sorry that he had done so little for it.

Mr. Smither endorsed the remarks made by Mr. Wall as to the President.

The Hon. President replied, ascribing the praise to the Honorary Secretary, who had written to many people as to Papers, and by his endeavours had resuscitated the Society.

The Meeting was then adjourned till some convenient day soon, when Papers will be read.—[See *Ceylon Observer*, 6th April, 1881.]

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got, at least, a faint knowledge of attraction of gravitation from his observation. But that is no reason why it should be asserted that he did not know the thing.

It may be argued that the Hindús maintain, as Ptolemy did, that the sun goes round the earth, and that this is inconsistent with the laws of gravitation. It is therefore that I say that the Hindus did not know all the laws of gravitation in their entirety.

As it appears that the Europeans here did not all this time know the teachings of "Siddhánta Sirómaṇi," it is quite right for them to say that the laws of gravitation, or gravitation itself, was not known to the Hindûs before Sir Isaac Newton's time.

I would now amend the wording of my Essay thus:—"The laws of gravitation were known" &c., should be "Attraction of gravitation was known," &c.

S. Mervin.

Colombo, 13th April, 1881.

General Meeting.

May 7, 1881.

Present :

The Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft, Acting Colonial Secretary, (in the Chair),

J. Capper, Esq.	S. Râjapaksa, Mudaliyâr.
J. B. Cull, Esq.	W. P. Raṇasiṇha, Esq.
A. C. Laurie, Esq.	J. G. Smither, Esq.
J. Loos, Esq., M.D.	J. L. Vanderstraaten, Esq., M.D.
A. Murray, Esq., Hon. Treasr.	G. Wall, Esq., Vice-Presdt.

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Honorary Secretary.

1.—The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and confirmed.

2.—The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Society :—

The Hon. R. Cayley, Chief Justice (Proposed by the Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft, C.C.S., Seconded by A. Murray, Esq.), W. E. Davidson, Esq., C.C.S., H. W. Green, Esq., C.C.S., F. H. Price, Esq., C.C.S., G. S. Saxton, Esq., C.C.S.

The following were re-admitted as Members :—

W. J. S. Boake, Esq., C.C.S., L. Nell, Esq., and W. E. T. Sharpe, Esq., C.C.S.

The Hon. Secretary announced that His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor (the Hon. J. Douglas, C.M.G.) had consented to join the Society as its Vice-Patron.

3.—The Honorary Secretary laid on the table a list of Books presented to and purchased for the Society's Library since the last Meeting (April 7th).

4.—The Honorary Secretary then read the following Papers :—

(i.) "*A Short Account of the principal Religious Ceremonies observed by the Kandyans of Ceylon,*" *by* C. J. R. Le Mesurier, Esq., C.C.S.

(ii.) "*Valentyn's Account of Adam's Peak, by* A. Spence Moss, Esq.

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(iii.) *A Letter from* J. G. Smither, Esq., *combating Mr. S. Mervin's statement of the length of the Yójana (Paper on "Hindú Astronomy.")**

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* The Hon. Sec., Royal Asiatic Society, C. B.

Dear Sir,—In the interesting Paper on Hindú Astronomy read at the General Meeting on Thursday, Mr. Mervin informed us that a "yójana" is considered equal to *five* English miles.

Referring to the glossary given in Turnour's translation of the Maháwaṇso (page 30), I find the following definition of the term which I transcribe *verbatim* :—

" *Yójanaṅ—passim* : a measure of distance equal to four "*gáwutan*," and each *gáwutan*, called *gow* in Singhalese, is equal to four *hætakmas*, and an *hætakma* is considered equal to one English mile, which would make a *yójanaṅ* to be 16 miles."

This I have endeavoured to make more clear by the following table, which I have prepared from the above :—

English Miles.		Hẹtẹkmas.		Gaws.		Yójana.
1	=	1				
4	=	4	=	1		
16	=	16	=	4	=	1

As the discrepancy between the two statements is so striking, I have thought it desirable to invite attention to it, and as Mr. Mervin tells us that he has adopted the " yójaná" as a standard measure for his calculations, I venture to suggest that he be requested to favour us at our next Meeting with precise information on this important point.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

J. G. Smither.

Colombo, 9th April, 1881.

The Hon. Sec., Royal Asiatic Society, C. B.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. J. G. Smither's letter to you, dated the 9th April, 1881, and forwarded to me on the 20th ultimo, in which it is stated, that according to the definition given in " Maháwaṇso," one *yójana* is equal to 16 English miles, instead of 5 miles as stated by me, I would in the first place quote the passage in my Essay referring to my estimate in English miles of a *yójana* :—

" I must say that the measurement of one *yójana* is not exactly settled. According to a table given in this chapter (44th chap. Andakósam of Skandapuráṇa) it is equal to 32,000 yards; according to some other authorities it is equal to 16,000 yards; and according to others, to 8,000 yards. A Chinese monk named ' Hieoun-Thsang,' who visited India in the middle of the 7th century, states that in India, according to ancient tradition, a yójana equaled 40 *li* (a *li* is about 550 yards). According to the customary use of the Indian Kingdoms it is 30 *li*. But the *yójana* mentioned in the Sacred Books contains only 16 *li*; which smallest *yójana* is equal to 5 English miles."

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4.—Votes of thanks to the writers of the above Papers (proposed by the Chairman), and to the Chairman (proposed by G. Wall, Esq., Vice-President, seconded by J. G. Smither, Esq.), unanimously carried, concluded the Meeting.

It is a matter of no infrequent occurrence that a term of distance, weight, or measurement, is variously estimated at different places; for instance :—

One English foot is somewhat smaller than a Dutch foot.

One English pound (weight) is less than a Dutch pound.

One dollar (money) is considered by the Tamiḷs to be	£0	1	6
By the Americans	0	4	2

One marakal (corn measure) is considered:

By the people of Southern India to contain ...	4	quarts.
By the people of the Wanni in Ceylon ...	10	do.
By people in Batticaloa District	8	do.

One Kátham or Gawatham (distance) is estimated:

By the Indian Tamiḷs to be	10	miles.
By the Siṇhalese of Ceylon	4	do.

Before the introduction of the Imperial Measure, great uncertainty existed with regard to weights and measures used in Great Britain; for it appears from the Preamble of the Act of 1824 that different weights and measures, some larger and some less, were in use in various places. Nor were the weights and measures in France, before the Revolution, free from confusion.

Just in the same manner, one "yójana" is estimated:

By the Indian Historians to be about ...	18	miles.
By the ancient Indian Government about ...	9½	do.
By the writers of Indian Sacred Books or Shástram ...	5	do.
By the Siṇhalese of Ceylon (see Mahávaṇso) ...	16	do.

It will be seen from the foregoing quotation that I myself have stated in the Essay, that the measurement of a "yójana" *is not exactly settled*, but that it is mentioned in the Sacred Books or Shástrams as equal to 5 English miles.

Further, "yójana" being a term used by the Indians in their sciences, their estimates should be adopted in preference to that of other nations.

AUTHORITIES IN FAVOUR OF THE ESTIMATE OF 5 MILES.

I.—Winslow's Tamiḷ and English Dictionary, which is acknowledged to to be the best of the kind :—

"யோசனை (yóchanai). A measure of distance reckoned foom 4 to 10 நாழிகை (náḷikai), usually about 13 miles. Wilson, about 9 miles. In Astronomy, the 5,059th part of a great circle, or on the equator about 4¼ geographical miles (or nearly 5 English miles.)"

Additions to Library.

Antaráwaraṇa (Siṇhalese), Colombo, 1875.

Architecture, History of, 1873–5, 4 Vols., by J. Ferguson, D.C.L., F.R.S., M.R.A.S.

II.—Webster's English Dictionary :—

"Yojan (Sanscrit Yójaná). A measure of distance, varying from 4 to 10 miles, but usually about 5 (East Indies.)"

III.—Chinese monk's report, as above shown, 5 miles.

IV.—Mr. D. L. Carroll (Visuvañátapillai) one of the graduates of the Batticotta Seminary, and the best Astronomer among the Tamiḷs of Jaffna, commenced to write Notes and a Commentary on Hiudú Astronomy, but unfortunately died before completing his work. The following table of distances is given by him :—

24	Aṇkulams (nearly an inch)	make	1	Cubit.
4	Cubits	"	1	Dhanu.
2	Dhanus	"	1	Danḍam.
500	Danḍams	"	1	Kúppidu.
4	Kúppidus	"	1	Yójaná.

Mr. Carroll's Notes say that an aṇkulam is equal to 5-6th of an inch.

According to this table a yójana is equal to 384,000 aṇkulams, or 320,000 inches. An English mile being 1,760 yards, or 63,360 inches.

$$\frac{320{,}000}{63{,}360} = 5{\cdot}05 \text{ English miles, a } \textit{yójana.}$$

V.—The distances in yójanas as given in ancient works on Science, such as "Súriyasiddhántam," in regard to the diameter of the Earth, to the diameter of the Moon's disc, to the atmosphere surrounding the Earth, &c., being multiplied by 5, nearly correspond with the distances in miles as given in the European works on Astronomy. This fact is an indirect proof that a *yójana* as used in Hindú sciences is apparently 5 English miles.

I think that the above authorities support my statement, that a *yójana* (as used in Hindú Astronomy) is *approximately 5 English miles*, and that the term is used in different places as expressing longer or shorter distances.

I beg to remain, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

Jaffna, 2nd December, 1881. S. Mervin.

The Hon. Sec., Royal Asiatic Society, C. B.

Dear Sir,—I return Mr. Mervin's letter of the 2nd instant, which you have been so good as to forward for my perusal with yours of yesterday.

Mr. Mervin, in replying to my communication of the 9th of April last, has furnished much valuable information on the subject of the "*yójana.*" The several lengths given in his letter are however so widely different one from another (varying as they do from 18 miles to 5 miles) that it seems more than ever necessary to accept with due caution astronomical calculations based on such an uncertain measure of length as the "yójana"

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Aryan Village, The, in India and Ceylon, by Sir J. B. Phear, 1880.
Atíta Wákya Dípaniya (Siṇhalese Proverbs), by A. M. Sénánáyaka. —*From Author*.

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appears to be. Even the authorities quoted by Mr. Mervin in support of his statement do not quite agree on the subject.

Owing to the great length of Mr. Mervin's essay, the reading of it at the Meeting had to be considerably abridged. Amongst the passages left uuread was that to which he refers in his letter, and his statement that a "yójana" is equal to 5 English miles was made verbally in reply to a question asked by one of the Members present.

Mr. Mervin will understand that my sole object in drawing attention to this matter was to elicit information on a doubtful point, and certainly the best thanks of the Society are due to that gentleman for taking so much pains to supply it.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

Colombo, 13th December, 1881. J. G. Smither.

From the following additional authorities it would appear, on the whole, safer to put the *yójana* at *from* 7 *to* 8 *miles*.

"Bopp ('Nalus,' p. 213) says it is equal to 8 English miles .... By following Fa Hian's route between places of which the identity is beyond question, as between Muttra and Canouje, and between Patna and Benares, we find the yójan in his time to be as nearly as possible 7 English miles; and this agrees much better with what we find the yójan to be, if we resolve it into its component parts :—

8 barley corns	=	1 finger [angula].
24 fingers	=	1 dund.
1,000 dund	=	1 krosa.
4 krosa	=	1 yójan.

This makes the yójan equal to 6 miles, 106 yards, and 2 feet"—(*Princep's Indian Antiquities*, Vol. ii., p. 130).

"The *yójana*, according to Mogallána's scale (*Abhidánappadipiká*), would be equal to between 12 and 12½ miles, and this is the length given by Childers, (*Páli Dict.*); but I think it is certain that no such scale as Mogallána gives was ever practically used in *Ceylon*. The finger joint (*angula*), span (*vidatthi*), and cubit (*ratana*) may have been used for short lengths; the *usabha* for longer ones; the *gávuta* and *yójana* for paths or roads; but I doubt whether any attempt was made in practice to bring these different measures into one scheme."—(*Rhys Davids, in Numismata Orientalia*, p. 15, 1877.)

Mr. Rhys Davids then proceeds to give a tabulated statement of 30 passages on the length of the *yójana*, disclosing an average of about *eight miles* to the *yójana*, and sums up :—"We have no data as yet for determining the sense in which the word *yójana* is used in the Three Piṭakas; in the 5th century Páli Literature it means between 7 and 8 miles" (p. 17). See too Alwis' '*Attanagaluvaṇsa*,' *p.p.* 7, 8. "Great misapprehension prevails as to the precise measure of a *yójana*, which, I believe, could not have been more than 7 *or* 8 *English miles*."—H. C. P. B., *Hon. Sec.*

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Buduguṇa Tarangamálaya (Siŋhalese), 1878.

Buddha, and his Doctrine, by O. Kistner.—*Presented.*

Catalogue, Descriptive, of Sanskrit, Páli, and Siŋhalese Literary Works of Ceylon, by James D'Alwis.

Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in the North-Western Provinces, Allahabad, 1880. } *Presented.*

Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in Oude, Allahabad, 1880. } *Presented.*

Catalogue of newly-discovered Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Lahore Division. } *Presented.*

Catalogue (general) of the Library of the Bombay Branch of the R. A. S. Bombay, 1863. } *Presented.*

Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Lahore Division. } *Presented.*

Ceylon Sketches, by Baron Eugene de Ransonnet, Vienna, 1867.

Chulla Seṭṭi Játakaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1871.

Classical Dictionary of India, and Supplement, by John Garrett, Madras, 1871 and 1873.

Comparative Grammar of the Modern A'ryan Languages of India 3 Vols, by John Beames, 1872-79.

Correspondence on Moplah Outrages in Malabar, 1849-53. } *Presented.*
Do. do. 1853-59. } *Presented.*

Dahamgeṭamáláwa (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1880.

Daivajñópadésaya (Páli).

Dasaratha Játaka, by V. Fausböll.

Dáṭhávansa, by M. Coomara Swamy, London, 1874.

Dẹnamutumálaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1878.

Dewidat Katháwa (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1879.

Dharmapála Sẹhẹlla (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1870.

Five Játakas (Páli), by V. Fausböll, 1872.

Folk Songs (The), of Southern India, by C. E. Glover, 1872.

Gajabá Katháwa (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1877.

Giridéwi Katháwa (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1879.

Grammatography, by F. Ballhorn, 1861.

Grammaire Pálie, by J. Minayef, 1874.

Grantha Sáraya, or Classical Reader (Siŋhalése).

Gujaráthi Alphabet and Vocabulary.

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Guttila Kávyaya (Siŋhalese).
History of Sind, A.D., 710–1590.—*Presented.*
History of Patmáwatí (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1880.
History of Selestina (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1875.
History of India, Vol. 4, Parts 1 & 2, by T. Wheeler, 1880.
Do. Vol. 8, by Sir H. M. Elliott, K.C.B., London, 1877.
India in Greece, by E. Pococke, London, 1852.
Indian Antiquary, Vols. 1—4.
Indraguruḷuva, (Siŋhalese).
Introduction à l'Histoire du Buddhisme Indien, by E. Burnouf, 1876.
Island Life, by A. Wallace.
Játaka, 2 Vols. (Páli), by V. Fausböll.
Játakaratnaya (Siŋhalese).
Kaccáyana et la Literature Grammaticale du Páli, by M. E. Senart.
Kalageḍimálaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1878.
Kápirikatháwa Siŋhalese, 1880.
Kávyasékhara (Siŋhalese), 1872.
Kovul Saka (Siŋhalese).
Kúmbi Katháwa (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1874.
Kusa Játakaya (Siŋhalese), 1876.
Labdhiwisódhanaya (Siŋhalese).
Laghu Kaumudí (The), Part II. Sanskrit Grammar with an English version.—*Presented.*
Le Lotus de La Bonne Loi, Paris, 1852.
Life of the Prophet Jonas (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1879.
Loves of Camaralzaman and Badoura (Siŋhalese), 1876.
Magamánajátakaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1879.
Mahákannajátakaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1877.
Maháparinibbánasutta, by Professor R. C. Childers, London, 1878.
Mahásammata (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1878.
Makhádéwajátakaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1877.
Márga Sankhyáwa (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1873.
Memoir on the Sawunt Waree State, Bombay, 1855.—*Presented.*
Miscellaneous Information connected with the Satara Territory, Bombay, 1857.—*Presented.*

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Muhurtachintámaṇi (Siŋhalese).

Muwajátakaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1871.

Non-Christian System, 5 vols.—Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism and Taouism, Islam, and The Coran.

Old Almanacs between 1705 and 1744, pamphlet.

On Sandhi in Páli, by R. C. Childers, 1879.

Oriental Series, 21 Vols. (Trübner's).

Paladáwaliya (Siŋhalese).

Páli Grammar (2 parts), by F. Mason.

Papers relating to the Aboriginal Tribes of the Central Provinces, by R. Temple, C.S.I., 1866.—*Presented.*

Parawisandésaya (Siŋhalese).

Patimokkha, The (Páli), by J. F. Dickson, 1875.

Pẹpiḷiniwan Játakaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1867.

Pẹrakumbásirita (Siŋhalese).

Piyayururatnamálaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1879.

Polynesian Race (The), 2 Vols., by A. Fornander.

Ranahansamálaya, Párumálaya, and Pẹdurumálaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1880.

Ratiratnálankáraya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1873.

Report on the Shivaroy Hills, Madras, 1862.—*Presented.*

Report on the Treatment of Leprosy in the Madras Presidency Madras, 1876.—*Presented.*

Ṣabdárthaprakáṣaya (Siŋhalese), 1873.

Saddantahẹlla (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1880.

Samahansókamálaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1878.

Sawsaddam Wádaya (Siŋhalese), 1873.

Sẹḷa Lihiṇi Sandéṣaya (Siŋhalese).

Sinna Muttu Katháwa (Siŋhalese), 1872.

South Indian Palæography, by A. C. Burnell.

Sulabáwati Katháwa (Siŋhalese), 1877.

Swapnamálaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1878.

Tarangamálaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1877.

Ten Játakas (Páli), by V. Fausböll.*

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* Bound in 1 vol. with Five Játakas.

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Three Thousand Bengáli Proverbs, by J. Long, 1872.

Translation Exercises, English-Urdú and Urdú-English, Part II., Calcutta, 1875.—*Presented.*

Viyógaratnamálaya (Siŋhalese).

Voyages and Travels, by Lord Valentia, 3 Vols., London, 1809.

Welsh's Military Reminiscences, 2, Vols., London, 1830.

Widura Játakaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1880.

Wirahasókamálaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1870.

It will be remembered that at the last Meeting of the Society time would not allow of the reading of several of the Papers which had been forwarded to the Hon. Secretary, and it was decided to hold a special Meeting to hear these Papers read. This Meeting was held at the Colombo Museum this afternoon.

The Books lately received from Messrs Trübner & Co., were on view in the room.

The first Paper was one written by Mr. C. J. R. Le Mesurier, C.C.S., of Kandy, and read by the Hon. Secretary.

The Hon. Secretary then read a letter from Mr. J. G. Smither, criticising Mr. S. Mervin's calculation of the *yójana* in his Paper on Hindú Astronomy; after which he read Mr. A. Spence Moss's Paper on "Valentyn's account of Adam's Peak." In the introductory letter to the Paper Mr. Moss wrote :—

"With regard to the caves said to exist on Adam's Peak, I saw during my ascent in February last, some cave-like sheltering places, under huge masses of rock, which have been, and are, used by pilgrims to pass the night under, to cook under in wet weather, &c., but all traces of rock-hewn figures, or built up façade, have disappeared.

"I have waded through a good deal of Valentyn; he seems to have believed almost anything he was told, and to have confined himself to very superficial observation."

After some interesting notices of, and extracts from, Valentyn's writings, Mr. Moss remarks :—

"It would be extremely interesting to know whether these caves really exist either on Adam's Peak itself or in some of the hills of the Peak range. Perhaps, if some of the gentlemen connected with the Revenue Service, of whom several are Members of this Society, were to enquire from priests and headmen, some tradition would be discovered which would lead to their identification. The author has been informed by the old priest of Aluwiháré, that there are rock-cut shrines at the base or half-way up Adam's Peak, that the approaches are now overgrown with jungle, and that no one dare make the ascent : that they lie on the west side. Possibly the priest has framed his answer in accordance with what he saw was the anxiously-expected answer, regardless of strict truth."

Votes of thanks to the writers of Papers, and to the Chairman, concluded the Meeting. It is probable that another Meeting will be held in a month. —[See *Ceylon Observer* May, 7.]

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Committee Meeting.

June 14, 1881.

Present:

J. G. Smither, Esq., in the Chair.

Rev. E. F. Miller, M. A. | W. Ferguson, Esq.

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Honorary Secretary.

1.—Confirmed Minutes of last Meeting.

2.—The Honorary Secretary announced that there was a considerable balance to the credit of the Society—about £140, he believed, on the assurance of the Honorary Treasurer—and suggested that a Sub-Committee be formed to select additional new Works for the C. A. S. Library.

The following gentlemen were—subject to their consent—to be asked to act on a Book Committee :—

C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G., W. Ferguson, Esq., Rev. E. F. Miller, M.A., J. G. Smither, Esq., and the Honorary Secretary.—*Carried.*

3.—Decided to invite C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G., and J. G. Wardrop, Esq., to serve on the Committee of the Society, in place of J. B. Cull, Esq., and H. J. Macvicar, Esq., who have left the Island.

4.—The Honorary Secretary announced that Papers had been circulated among the Reading Committee, and that at a Meeting it had been decided :—

(*a*) That Messrs. Küntéand Nevill be asked to favour the Society with *résumés* of their Papers to be read at a General Meeting, on the understanding that the Papers will be published in the C. A. S. Journal *in extenso.*

(*b*) That Mr. L. Nell's Paper on "The Sinhalese *Kaláwa*" be read at the next General Meeting.

5.—The Honorary Secretary announced that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor had consented to preside at the next General Meeting, any day between the 28th instant and the 10th July. Decided to call a General Meeting for July 6th at 3·30 P. M.

6.—The Honorary Secretary stated that a new Number of the Journal (Vol. VII., pt. ii., No. 23, 1881), was in the Press and would shortly be issued. He further stated that he had been unable at present to carry out the wishes of the Committee for a new Catalogue, owing to some misunderstanding on the part of the Museum Librarian regarding the MS. Catalogue, which he trusted would soon be set right.

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General Meeting.

July 6, 1881.

Present:

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, Hon. J. Douglas, C.M.G., Vice-Patron, in the Chair.

C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G.
S. M. Burrows, Esq.
C. Dickman, Esq.
A. C. Dixon, Esq.
W. Ferguson, Esq.
W. P. Raṇasiṇha, Esq.
Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft,
J. G. Smither, Esq.,
J. L. Vanderstraaten, M.D.
G. Wall, Esq., Vice-President.
L. de Zoysa, Mahá-Mudaliyár.
H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Hon. Sec.

1.—Read and confirmed Minutes of last Meeting (May 7th).

2.—The following gentlemen were elected new Members of the Society:—

Major A. Ewing, J. G. Dean, Esq., and J. P. Lewis, Esq., C.C.S.

L. F. Lee, Esq., C.C.S., was re-admitted a Member.

3.—The Hon. Secretary laid on the table a list of purchases for, and presentations to, the Society's Library since last Meeting.

4.—Papers read by the Hon. Secretary:—

i.—*On the Siṇhalese Kaláwa,** by L. Nell, Esq.

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* *Extract from Letter to the Hon. Secretary by* Dandris De Silva Guṇaratna, *Mudaliyár.*

"Mr. Nell has embodied in his Paper all that is known, or said, about the subject among the natives. The popular idea which they have of *kaláwa* (කලාව) is the *principle of life* perpetually traversing the body in the manner described, and having some mysterious connection with the Moon. It is something like the Sun which, without being stationary at any particular point, diffuses light and heat throughout the surrounding universe. Though every part of the animal body is endued with life, yet the centre, or nucleus, of that life is located at some point or other in the body, not stationary but in ceaseless motion; and that is *kaláwa*. It is hard to say what is the difference between *Amrita-kaláwa* and *Visa-kaláwa* except in the simple meanings of the two words. I am, however, inclined to think that there are two principles acting together but in opposite directions, the one controlling the other, in the manner in which the Life-principle acts; *Amrita-kaláwa* tending to invigorate and renew the system, while *Visa-kaláwa* tends to keep in check the too accelerated action of the system due to the immediate presence of the former. Any injury to the body must be felt more painfully, and when the pain is excessive must cause death, when the part so injured or affected is endued with greater sensibility. Wherever the life-principle resides, there the sensibility must be the greatest. Hence it is, I think, that people are cautioned against hurting that point in the body where the *kaláwa* is found on any particular day."

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ii.—*A Húniyam Image*, by L. NELL, Esq.

iii.—*Note on the Origin of the Vẹddó*, by L. DE ZOYSA, Mahá-Mudaliyár.

A short conversation initiated by His Excellency followed the reading of each Paper.

With regard to the Vẹddó (Vẹddás), De Zoysa, Mahá-Mudaliyár, promised to submit to the Society, at an early date, as complete a Vocabulary of their language as he had been able to procure, though much of the same ground had been probably covered by Messrs. Bailey and Hartshorne.

5.—A vote of thanks to His Excellency for presiding, proposed by George Wall, Esq., seconded by J. G. Smither, Esq., closed the proceedings.

Additions to Library.

All about Gold, Gems, and Pearls, in Ceylon, Colombo, 1881.

Catalogue of Sanskrit MSS., Calcutta, 1880.—*Presented.*

Cinchona Cultivation into India, Introduction of, by C. THANKBAR.

Journal of the North China Branch of the R. A. S.
Do. do.
Do. do.
Do. R. A. S. of Bengal 1881.
Do. do.
} *From R. A. S. North China, and Bengal.*

Lepidoptera of Ceylon (The), Parts 1 and 2.—*Presented by Ceylon Government.*

Malayáḷam and English Dictionary (A), by Rev. H Gundert, D.H.

Phrase Book of Colloquial Siŋhalese, Colombo, 1877.

Proceedings of the R. A. S. of Bengal
Do. do.
} *From A. S. Bengal.*

Report on Sanskrit, MSS.—*Presented.*

Sanskrit Sẹbda Máláwa.—*Presented.*

Selections from the Records of the Government of India.—*Presented.*

Siŋhalese Lesson Book on Ollendorff's System, by Rev. C. Carter.

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Committee Meeting.

September 12, 1881.

Present:

J. G. Smither, Esq., in the Chair.

W. Ferguson, Esq.	J. L. Vanderstraaten, M.D.
J. G. Wardrop, Esq.	H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Hon. Sec.

1.—Confirmed Minutes of previous Meeting.

2.—The Honorary Secretary announced that the following Paper had been sent in :—

On the 'Mira Kanduri' Festival of the Muhammadans in Ceylon, by A. T. SHAMS-UD-DI'N ;

and that Dr. Vanderstraaten promised a Paper on "*Sericulture in Ceylon.*"

Decided to call a General Meeting at an early date, and to invite His Excellency to preside.

3.—The Honorary Secretary read a letter from G. Wall, Esq., Vice-President, announcing his immediate departure from the Island. The Secretary pointed out that the Society would thus be left without its President (Col. A. B. Fyers, R.E.) or either of its Vice-Presidents, (W. R. Kynsey, Esq., P.C.M.O., and G. Wall, Esq.)

Proposed by J. G. Smither, Esq., seconded by J. G. Wardrop, Esq., that the Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft, and C. Bruce, Esq , C.M.G., be invited to become additional Vice-Presidents of the Society.—*Carried unanimously.*

4.—The Honorary Secretary stated that a new Catalogue was in the Press, but that some time must elapse before it could be issued, owing to the little leisure he was able to devote to the revision of proofs.

5.—The Honorary Secretary suggested that the Society might from the commencement of next year (1882) issue—say twice a year, a *Supplement* to its Journal, consisting of extracts from Works now scarce, or out of print, (*e. g.*, Ceylon Almanacs, 1833-35 ; Colombo Journal, 1832-3) relating to Ceylon.

Decided to obtain from the local presses estimates of the cost per page of printing such a *Supplement*—the question to stand over meanwhile.

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General Meeting.

October 6, 1881.

Present:

The Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A. C. Dixon, Esq.
Major A. Ewing.
A. M. Ferguson, Esq., Jr.
W. Ferguson, Esq.
W. K. James, Esq.
J. Loos, Esq., M.D.
J. G. Smither, Esq.
J. L. Vanderstraaten, Esq., M.D.

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Honorary Secretary.

G. C. Hill, Esq., and Dr. J. Stevenson were introduced as Visitors.

1.—Read and confirmed Minutes of last Meeting.

2.—The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Society :—

G. D. L. Browne, Esq., C.C.S., J. Carbery, Esq., M.B.C.M., G. C. Hill, Esq., J. P. Morgan, Esq., M.R.C.S., M.B.C.M., J. D. Plaxton, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., W. G. Rockwood, Esq., M.D., H. VanCuylenberg, Esq.

3.—The Honorary Secretary laid on the table a list of Books presented to, and purchased for, the Society's Library since last Meeting.

4.—The following Papers were read :—

i.—*A Synopsis of a Paper on Sericulture in Ceylon,* by J. L. Vanderstraaten, Esq., M.D.

The process of rearing Silkworms was illustrated in detail.

Mr. James then addressed the Meeting at some length, recounting his efforts (hitherto abortive) to introduce the *Bombyx*, commonly found in the Cinnamon Gardens round Colombo, to the notice of silk-weavers in Europe, and exhibited some of the cocoons of this species of moth. Some general conversation on the subject followed.

ii.—In the absence of the authors the Honorary Secretary read extracts from :—

(*a.*)—A Paper "*On the 'Mirakanduri' Festival of the Muhammadans as observed in Colombo,*" by A. T. Shams-ud-di'n.

(*b.*)—From Mudaliyár S. Jayatillaka's Paper "*On Sinhalese Omens.*"

5.—A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the Proceedings.

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After the Minutes of the last Meeting had been read and confirmed Dr. J. L. Vanderstraaten was called upon to read his Paper on "Sericulture in Ceylon." The learned Doctor said that he would not read his Paper *in toto*, but would just refer to the way in which the cultivation of silk had been introduced into Ceylon, and describe the specimens of eggs, worms, moths, &c., which he had brought with him. He informed the Meeting that in the time of the Portuguese and Dutch there had been a garden of mulberries and buildings for the rearing of silkworms on the bank of the Kẹlaṇi, called *Orta Seda*, which is the Portuguese for 'silk garden,' but when the British took possession they found the industry abandoned. His Excellency the Governor, Sir James Longden, has introduced eggs from Japan, and it is hoped the culture will prove successful and remunerative. Father Palla, of the Roman Catholic Mission, now at Galle, who has the good of the people much at heart, is devoting much time and care to the pursuit, and has succeeded so well that he hopes Ceylon will in time rival Japan in the export of eggs to England. It seems that in Japan the moths are made to lay their eggs (which they do most systematically) on sheets of card-board, stamped with the Japanese mark: the moths resulting from one card are expected to fill 100 more cards with eggs;—or, in other words, one card, weighing 1 oz. and costing Rs. 10, yields Rs. 1,000 worth of eggs. If mulberries are plentiful two such supplies can be obtained in a year. Father Palla expects to obtain like results or even better, for he has succceeded, he believed, in rearing two batches in the year against the single crop of Japan. The eggs received by him from Japan began to hatch soon after their arrival in December; they formed cocoons in a month, and the moths which came out of these cocoons laid eggs on a card (which was exhibited). These eggs are now hatching, and the larvæ, cocoons, moths, &c., shown at the Meeting were from these eggs.

Mr. James said that at the request of several of his correspondents he had repeatedly endeavoured to introduce the cinnamon-garden *Bombyx* into Europe, but from various causes his efforts hitherto had not met with success. The moths in some instances had all come out during transit, some with only one wing, some with none at all, and all "shouting for elbow room." Then the Post Office refused to take live stock, as it introduced vermin to the destruction of letters. He had always sent *chrysalides*, as he had been specially requested not to send eggs: he did not know why. He had asked Mr. De Soyza to get his cinnamon-peelers to collect the caterpillars, promising so much a caterpillar, but the latter said they could not (? would not) find any. He himself had once found 150 all together, not on the cinnamon, but on a large tree whose name he did not know: that was the biggest haul he had ever made. He might say that this insect was already acclimatized to England, for it fed freely on the leaves of apple, pear, and other English fruit trees. The difficulty was to get the moths or eggs safely transmitted.

After Dr. Vanderstraaten had answered the many various questions put to him, and Mr. W. Ferguson had stated that the mulberry grew freely enough in Ceylon,

Mr. Bell (Hon. Sec.) read extracts from a Paper "On the Muhammadan Festival '*Mira Kanduri*,'" by A. T. Shams-ud-dín. The most interesting part was a reference to the manner in which the Máldivians were converted

to Islám. Mr. Bell referred to the description of the conversion given by the Arab traveller Ibn Batúta, and stated that he had just come across a Tamil book containing another account of the miracles performed at the time, which smacked of the Arabian Nights. This he had translated and would, with the permission of the Meeting, read. It was just the tale of the fisherman, the brass bottle, and the "Ifrít," over again, only in this instance the bottle containing the imprisoned *Jinn* is dropped into the sea off Point-de-Galle.

Mr. Bell next read extracts from S. Jayatilaka Mudaliyár's Paper 'On Siŋhalese Omens." By general consent those connected with crows, lizards, and dogs were selected, and the various omens created great amusement. A dog getting on to the roof of a house was given as the worst of omens, many new houses having been abandoned and allowed to go to ruin from this cause.

The election of several new Members (including four Doctors) shows that the Society is rapidly gaining new life and vigour.

Mr. W. Ferguson added to the interest of the Meeting by exhibiting a true chameleon which he had captured in the Cinnamon Gardens, and which he believed to be an escape, as none had ever been found in this part of Ceylon before. [See *Ceylon Observer*, October 7.]

Additions to Library.

Beiträge Zur Páli-Grammatik von Ernst. W. A. Kuhn, Berlin, 1875.

Bibliotheca Orientalis, or a List of Books, Papers, Serials and Essays, 5 Vols.

Boletim da Sociedade De Geographia De Lisboa, 2nd series. Nos. 3 and 4. Lisboa, 1881.

Bombay, Journals of the R. A. S., Vols. I., III., IV. (No 14, Jan. 1851), V. (Nos. 18, 19, 1853–4) VI., VII., VIII. (No. 24, 1865–6), IX. (Nos. 25, 26, 1867–9), X.—XIV. (1871–80.) } *From R. A. S. Bombay.*

Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in the North-Western Provinces, Part VI., Allahabad, 1881.—*Presented.*

Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in Oude for 1880, prepared by Pandit Devi Prasáda, Allahabad, 1881.—*Presented.*

Census Panegyric (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1881.—*From Author.*

Ceylon Friend (The), Vols. I.—XI., 1870 to 1881. (New Edition.)

De Mohammede Batuta Arabe Tingitano, by Kosegarten, 1818.

Dhammapada, The, (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1879.

Eastern Monachism, by R. Spence Hardy. Edinburgh, 1860.

Eastern Proverbs and Emblems, by Rev. J. Long, London, 1881.

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Flora of British India, by J. R. Hooker, C.B., Vols. I. and II., London, 1875.

Greek and Latin Etymology, by J. Peile, London, 1875.

Hindú Philosophy, by John Davies, London, 1881.

History of Ceylon, by William Knighton, London, 1845.

Historical Relation of the Island of Ceylon in the East Indies, by Robert Knox, 1681.

Indian Poetry, by E. Arnold, London, 1881.

International Numismata Orientalia, Vol. I., London, 1878.

Journal of the A. S. of Bengal, 1881.—*From A. S. Bengal.*

Journal of the Straits Branch of the R. A. S., Nos. 2 to 7.—*From A. S. Straits.*

Journal of the North China Branch of the R. A. S. old series, Vol. I., part iii., December 1859; Vol. 2, part i., September 1860; new series, Vols. I.—XIV., 1864 to 1879.—*From A. S. North China.*

Journal of the R. A. S., Great Britain and Ireland, old series, Vols. VI., XI., part i., XII., XIII.

Manual of Buddhism, by R. Spence Hardy, Edinburgh, 1880 (2nd Edition).

Milindaprașnaya (Siŋhalese).

New Testament (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1878.

Pielat's Thesaurus Zeylanicus, 1678.

Prinsep's Indian Antiquities, edited by Thomas, 2 Vols.

Proceedings of the A. S. Bengal, Nos. 5, 6 and 7, May, June, and July, 1881.—*From A. S. Bengal.*

Report on Tours in the Gangetic Provinces in 1875–76, and 1877–78, Vol. XI., Calcutta, 1880.

Report of Tours in Bundelkhand and Malwa in 1874–75, and 1876–77, by Major-General A. Cunningham, C.S.I., C.I.E., Vol. X., Calcutta, 1880.

Review of the Forest Administration of the Government of India, 1879–80, Simla, 1881.

Sacred Books of the East, Vols. IX., and X. Edited by F. Max Müller, Oxford, 1881.

} *Presented.*

Sámuddrikáratnaya (Siŋhalese), Colombo, 1878.

Smithsonian Report, 1879.

} *From Smithsonian Institute.*

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Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vols. XXI., XXII., Washington. | Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, Vol. XXIII., Washington, 1881. — *From Smithsonian Institute.*

Tropical Agriculturist (The), 5 Nos.—*i.e.*, June, July, August, September, and October, Colombo, 1881.

Vinayapiṭakam, Vol. III.—*Presented by Ceylon Government.*

Vocabulary of the English and Malay Languages, by F. A. Swettenham, Vol. I., Singapore, 1881.

Voyages d'Ibn Batoutah, 4 Vols. and Index, Paris, 1879.

Voyage to the Spice Islands and New Guinea, by M. P. Sennerat, 1781.

Voyage aux Indes Orientales, 1782.

ANNUAL MEETING.

December 16, 1881.

His Excellency Sir J. R. Longden K.C.M.G., in the Chair.

T. Berwick, Esq.
W. J. S. Boake, Esq.
C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G., Vice-President.
J. F. Churchill, Esq.,
J. D. M. Coghill, Esq., M.D.
A. C. Dixon, Esq.
Major A. Ewing.
W. Ferguson, Esq.
W. K. James, Esq.
A. Jayawardhana, Mudaliyár.
L. F. Lee, Esq.
F. C. Loos, Esq.
J. Loos, Esq., M.D.
E. F. Perera, Esq.
Hon. P. Ráma-Náthan.
W. P. Raṇasiṇha, Esq.
Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft, Vice-President.
E. Robinson, Esq.

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Honorary Secretary.

Adrian Hope, Esq., P.S., was introduced to the Meeting.

1.—The Minutes of the last Meeting (October 6th, 1881) were read and confirmed.

2.—Mr. C. Bruce, C.M.G., proposed, and Mr. W. Ferguson seconded, the election of the following candidates as new Members :—

Hon. J. Stoddart, and Messrs. C. E. Dunlop, C.C.S., L. J. E. G. Tate, C.C.S., and Adrian Hope.

No objection being taken to the proposed candidates, they were declared duly elected Members of the Society.

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3.—The Honorary Secretary laid on the table the books presented to, and purchased by, the Society since the last General Meeting.

4.—The Meeting proceeded to consider the amendments in the Rules, approved by the Committee :—

(*a*) In Rule 3 ; after clause (*b*) to add the following :—" Persons desirous of rejoining the Society may be re-admitted Members without entrance fee, subject to the discretion of the Managing Committee."—*Agreed to.*

(*b*) In Rule 4 ; to substitute for the words "all appointed from time to time by open vote at some General Meeting," the words "all appointed by open vote at the Annual Meeting."—*Agreed to.*

(*c*) It was proposed to follow up the previous amendment by the following clause :—"By departure from the Island any Office-bearer shall be held to have vacated his office."

This provoked considerable discussion.

The Hon. P. Ráma-Nathán suggested that, in place of the above clause, the Rule with reference to the Legislative and Municipal Councils should be adopted ; viz., if any officer absents himself from the Colony, and continues to be absent for three months, he shall, *ipso facto*, vacate his office.

Mr. Berwick thought it would be rather hard that any officer, who should absent himself for three months, say by taking a holiday trip —for instance to the Nilgherries—should thereby vacate his office. It seemed to him that the proposed rule would work very prejudicially to the interests of the Society. Ultimately the following amendment, proposed by Mr. Berwick and seconded by Mr. L. F. Lee, was adopted :—

"In the event of any Office-bearer leaving the Colony for three (3) months, it shall be competent for the Committee to fill up the office at the next General Meeting."

(*d*) To substitute in Rule 7, for the words "in the first week of November," the words "in December."—*Agreed to.*

(*e*) Subject to the consent of Museum Committee, to adopt the Rules for the C. A. S. Library, drawn up by the Honorary Secretary, in place of the Resolutions of the Museum Committee at present appended to the Rules of the Society.

This, after considerable discussion, was withdrawn in favour of the following amendment :—

"That the Committee of the C. A. S. in conjunction with the Museum Committee, do consider the new Rules for the C. A. S.

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Library drawn up by the Honorary Secretary, with a view to their adoption."

5.—Mr. J. F. Churchill proposed and Dr. Loos seconded, that the following Office-bearers, nominated by the Committee, be elected for the ensuing year :—

President.—C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G.

Vice-Presidents.—The Hon. R. Cayley, Chief Justice, and the Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft, C.C.S.

Hon. Treasurer.—J. G. Wardrop, Esq.

Hon. Secretary.—H. C. P. Bell, Esq., C.C.S.

Committee.—Messrs. T. Berwick, J. Capper. A. C. Dixon, Major A. Ewing, W. Ferguson, L. F. Lee, Rev. E. F. Miller, A. Murray, Hon. P. Ráma-Nathán, J. G. Smither, and J. L. Vanderstraaten, M.D. —*Carried.*

The Secretary then read the

ANNUAL REPORT.

"Your Committee wish to revive the salutary practice, which has been in abeyance for a decade, of submitting to the Society annually a brief Report, giving a *résumé* of the year's work, and intended to supplement the usual Address of the President.

"As in 1871, when the last Report was issued, so now your Committee is able to congratulate the Society on "the new era which has dawned upon it." It is highly satisfactory to believe that the efforts made to resuscitate the "dry bones" from the apparently hopeless sleep of at least five years (1874-1879) have met with success, and that the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society is once more in a fair way to re-assume the creditable position it formerly held among earned sister Societies.

"That a Society of this nature should have to pass through vicissitudes of fortune, is but to be expected, and the life history of the Ceylon Asiatic Society, as our past records disclose, has been marked by such alternations. The causes are easily traceable:—frequent changes of Secretaries—departure from Colombo, or the Island, of Members able and willing to help forward the Society's interests—the irregular issue of Journals—and, perhaps above all, the long intervals which have been allowed to lapse between Meetings. It is, therefore, the more encouraging to note that Phœnix-like, the Society has ever risen from its ashes and developed renewed vigour for another lease of life.

"*Members.*—The Society has received during the year an accession to its numbers of 30 ordinary Members, of whom nine have rejoined. Two Members have left Ceylon and relinquished their connection

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with the Society. In May the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. J. Douglas, C.M.G., consented to join the Society and become its Vice-Patron. There are now on the list 11 Life Members, 4 Honorary Members, and 94 ordinary Members, or 109 in all. These figures cannot but be satisfactory as showing that the Society is steadily regaining the attention of intelligent members of the community interested in the objects which it sets before it. Cordial relations have been re-established with many corresponding Societies, and the awakening once more to active life of the Ceylon Asiatic Society is welcomed on all sides.

"*Meetings.*—During the year four General Meetings have been held, your Committee has met four times, and the Book and Reading Committee as occasion required.

"*Papers.*—There has been no lack of Papers sent in to the Hon. Secretary, and it is believed that these will not suffer by comparison with those of past years generally. The coming year promises to witness the publication of further valuable and interesting Papers of equal, if not higher merit.

"*Journals.*—In the 10 years between 1871 and 1880 inclusive, the Society issued only seven Numbers of its Journal (1870-71, 1871-72 with Proceedings, 1873 pt. i., 1874 pt. i., 1879, 1880, 2 pts.), and, in separate pamphlet form, Proceedings 1870-71 and 1873-74.

"At the outset of the present year matters stood as follow :—

(*a*) Proceedings of the Society had not been published for five years.

(*b*) Journals had been issued so irregularly that not only had many fallen out of print, but the Library of the Society itself was without a single copy of several Numbers, nor was it known how many Journals had been published since the institution of the Society.

"Steps were at once taken by your Committee to remedy these defects. Government liberally acceded to a request for permission to have the back Numbers of the Society's Journals, the stock of which had become exhausted, reprinted at the Government Press, and a private member (Mr. D. W. Ferguson) generously lent his copies—the only complete set available—for the purpose. The Numbers out of print are, 1848-49, 1849-50, 1853 No. 1, 1856-58 2 pts., 1858-59, 1860-61. 1870-71. Pressure of other business prevented the work of reprinting progressing as fast as had been anticipated, and it is a question whether it may not be desirable to entrust a portion of the Journals to be reprinted to some local press. The Journal for 1853, No. 1, (now classed as No. 6, 1853) is, however, on the eve of completion, and another Number is well advanced.

"To put an end to the confusion as to past Journals, your Committee desired the Honorary Secretary to draw up an authoritative division into Volumes, numbering them consecutively. A "Summary of the Ceylon Asiatic Society's Journals, 1845-1880," giving the headings of the several Papers, was accordingly issued, by which the 22 Numbers were divided into six Volumes. It is hoped this summary of contents may be of use (provisionally at least), and your Committee is glad to announce that a Member of the Society (Major A. Ewing) has consented to undertake the preparation of an Index to Volumes I to VI.

"The 'Summary' was preceded by '*Proceedings*, 1875-80,' and has been followed by Journal, Vol. VII., pt. i., No. 23, 1881. A new Number is in the Press.

"*Library.*—At the commencement of the year it was brought to the notice of the Committee that the state of the Books, &c., in the Society's Library was such as to call for immediate action. It was found that from neglect, and carelessness, not only had a large proportion of the Books, &c., remained unbound for many years, or been bound up irregularly, but very many had become so dilapidated as to necessitate their being rebound without delay, and that there were large gaps in series of the Transactions of various Societies, and in other Periodicals, one or two volumes missing from many sets—besides several valuable works, which it is well known were formerly in the Library and have unaccountably disappeared. Efforts have been made during the year to fill these gaps, as far as possible, and, thanks to the generosity of other Societies, back Numbers of their Transactions have been received to fill the places of those missing. Of course the Society has been put to considerable expense by having to repurchase important works, which it once possessed, at an enhanced price. Thus, to give but one instance—in 1867, Princep's invaluable "History of Indian Antiquities," edited by Thomas, was purchased for £1 5*s*. It disappeared, and the Society had this year to replace it at a cost of £8 8*s*. !

"Some excuse for this discreditable state of things may be found in the fact of the necessary confusion occurring at the time of the transfer to the Museum building, to the want of a paid Librarian, and the absence of a Catalogue of the Library. The last Catalogue (on the alphabetical system) was issued in 1870, and has long been out of print. After the transfer of the books to the Museum the Library became virtually useless to all except a few readers, whose time fortunately allowed them to attend the Museum. By Resolutions of the Museum Committee, the rule by which the books could not be taken out of the Museum was relaxed as regards the Society's Library. The want of a new Catalogue was, however, keenly felt, and your Committee learns with satisfaction that one is now in the

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Press, and will be put into the hands of Members as soon as the Honorary Secretary can single-handed revise the proofs.

"At their last Meeting, the Committee resolved to ask Government to allow the present Attendant at the Museum to be employed as paid Librarian of the Society upon an increase to his salary of £6 a year payable by the Society. This boon Government has granted. New Rules for the Library (adopted almost *verbatim* from those of the R. A. S. Bengal, June, 1878) have been submitted to the Museum Committee, and it is expected will obtain their sanction.

"Regarding additions to the Library made during the year, the Committee need do no more than refer to the lists which follow the Proceedings of each General Meeting in proof of the substantial gain thus acquired by the Society. Many valuable presentations have been made, and a sum of over £100 spent on the purchase of works. The improvement in the appearance of the Books on the shelves will be apparent, and that the sum expended on book-binding has been properly employed. Some 200 Volumes in all have been bound, or rebound, during the year. With the new Catalogue and explicit Rules in the hands of Members, the Library cannot fail to be more generally used than has been the case hitherto.

"*Money.*—The Balance sheet of the year's expenditure is appended. As was to be expected, the disbursements have been exceptionally heavy, but the Society's annual revenue, coupled with the large amount to its credit at the close of last year, has enabled the Committee to spend freely wherever the interests of the Society seemed to require. In spite of all there is remaining a balance to the credit of the Society of Rs. 614·89.

"The Committee cannot close their report without a special expression of their regret that Mr. A. Murray finds that his other duties will not allow him to continue as Honorary Treasurer. When Mr. Murray first assumed duties in 1877, the Society was in a state of chaos, and it is greatly due to his energy and zeal that a collapse was then prevented. The subscriptions had not been called in for some years, and the accounts of the Society were apparently in hopeless confusion. Mr. Murray grappled with the difficulty so effectually as to be able to continue to show a clean balance-sheet yearly."

C. Bruce Esq., C.M.G., moved, and the Honorary Secretary seconded, the adoption of the Report.—*Carried nem. com.*

Major Ewing then moved, and W. Ferguson, Esq., seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to the retiring Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Murray.—*Carried unanimously.*

C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G., having returned thanks for the honor done him, in electing him President of this Society for the ensuing year, proceeded to read his Address :—

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The Rules of our Society set forth that its design is to institute and promote enquiries into the History, Religion, Literature, Arts and Social Condition of the present and former inhabitants of the Island, with its Geology and Mineralogy, its Climate and Meteorology, its Botany and Zoology. It will be convenient for me to adhere to this order in a brief survey of the work accomplished, or undertaken, during the year, either by Members of our Society or by others interested in our design.

History.

Since our last Meeting, Dr. E. Müller's Archæological labours in Ceylon have come to an end. Translations of eleven ancient inscriptions from the Anurádhapura and Hambantoṭa districts, now in the Museum, have recently been published as a Sessional Paper, and the Society now looks forward with interest to his final Report on the collective results of the archæological work done by Dr. Goldschmidt and himself. When Dr. Müller left the colony, three months' leave was given to him for the preparation of this Report, which we may therefore shortly expect.

Oriental scholars interested in Ceylon will regret to hear that Mahá-Mudaliyár de Zoysa's translation of the Maháwaŋso has been for some time delayed by his failing health and loss of sight, and is now temporarily suspended, in order that he may complete the Catalogue of Sanskrit MSS. in the Temple Libraries, on which he has been long engaged. In the course of his official visits to the Temple Libraries, the Mahá-Mudaliyár has had many opportunities of collecting information about the *Vęddás,* and the results of these incidental studies he is now preparing to contribute to our Journal. On the question of the origin of the Vęddás, he has called attention to an important passage in the Maháwaŋso, the meaning of which he believes to be misinterpreted in Turnour's translation. The Maháwaŋso narrates the adventures and marriage of Vijayo—who in B. C. 543 landed near the mouth of the Mí-oya, on the site of the present Puttaḷam, and founded the historical dynasty of Ceylon—with an aboriginal princess named Kuvéni, by whom he had a son named Jívahatto and a daughter named Disála. Kuvéni and her children, having been banished by Vijayo on his determining to marry a daughter of the South Indian King Paṇḍavo of Madura, took refuge in the country near the Samantakúṭa mountain (Adam's Peak) where Jívahatto married his sister and had a numerous family, of whom, if the interpretation given to the passage by the Mahá-Mudaliyár is correct, the Vęddás are the descendants. In the course of his official duties, the Mahá-Mudaliyár has ascertained the existence of a tradition, apparently independent of the Maháwaŋso, that the Vęddás were originally settled in the Sabara-

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gamuwa district. To his note contributed to our Journal on this subject he has added a few specimens of Veddá songs and charms, and he has nearly ready for publication a Vocabulary of the Veddá language. It is desirable that the primitive elements of the language of this singular people should be established without delay. It is stated that they now communicate more freely with their neighbours, and, if this is the case, their original vocabulary is likely soon to be much disguised by the introduction of foreign words and forms. Another member of our Society, Mr. C. J. R. Le Mesurier, C.C.S., has also been collecting notes on the subject of the Veddás, which he hopes to complete during a projected shooting-excursion in the Veddá country.

Two Veddá skulls were sent last year to Professor Virchow, of Berlin, to be examined by that eminent anthropologist. They have recently been returned to the Museum, but we have not yet ascertained the results of Professor Virchow's examination.* Before making his report, he has asked for further information as to the number of Veddás still in existence, as to their colour, the shape of their features, and their size compared with Tamils and Sinhalese. He has also asked for a series of photographs illustrative of good types of the race. A few photographs have already been taken, and copies of them are in the Museum.

Mr. H. Nevill, C.C.S., has contributed to our Journal an erudite essay in identification of *Kalah*, the emporium in Ceylon, where the products of Eastern Asia were gathered for the markets of the West. Sir Emerson Tennent believed that the ancient centre of the kingdom of Kalah was the modern port of Galle, but Mr. Nevill has endeavoured to show that the emporium of Taprobane or Serendib, from B.C. 500 until a comparatively recent time, was not Galle, but the coast from Mannár to the Deduru-oya. He believes that the emporium was not limited to one spot, but consisted of a cluster of petty ports, while the site of Tammanná Nuwara was the capital of the ruler who governed under the Sultans of Zabedj. The identification of a commercial centre naturally suggests an enquiry into the circumstances and nationality of the people by whom it was maintained, and has led Mr. Nevill to an extensive study of the legendary and historical narratives connected with the early colonization of the Island. The results of these studies have brought him to the conclusion that the term *Nágas* signifies historically an aboriginal tribe of snake-worshippers whose descendants form, with an infusion of A'ryan blood, the bulk of our Sinhalese population, while the term *Yakkhos* signifies historically the ancestors of the Tamils of the Jaffna Wanni, the Eastern Province, and the Puttalam district, who held the emporium

* Professor Virchow's essay, *Ueber die Weddas von Ceylon und ihre Beziehungen zu den Nachbarstämmen* has since been received.

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of trade as a colony of the empire of Zabedj, in opposition to the Nágas, who held the rest of the Island. Mr. Nevill is now engaged on some essays on the religions and races of Southern India, which he hopes to put in circulation among literary Societies early next year.

Mr. Albert Gray has offered us, as a contribution to our knowledge of a later period of Ceylon history, a translation from the French of Defrémery and Sanguinetti of so much of the Travels of Ibn Batúta (about A. D. 1344) as relates to Ceylon and the Máldive Islands. This we propose to publish in the first Number of our Journal for 1882, and in order to render it more valuable by the accurate identification of the places mentioned in the text we are sending proof-sheets of the Ceylon portion to Members of the Society, and others from whom we hope to receive assistance, with a request that their suggestions and views may be communicated to us.

Mr. Donald Ferguson is preparing for our Society a translation of an Essay, "Origem do Reino dos Leoes e do Nome de Ceylao," by J. de Vasconcellos Abreu.

Our excellent Secretary is collecting information, letters, &c., touching the English and French captives in Kandy in the 17th century.

Before passing to another branch of the investigations of the Society, I would invite attention to the materials for historical research contained in the Government Record Office. Col. Fyers pointed out last year that the Dutch Records must contain valuable information, bearing on the past history and administration not only of this Island but also of the various settlements and marts mostly established by the Dutch. It is worth the consideration of the Committee whether some portion of our funds might be annually devoted to the preparation of a summary of the Colonial Office Records as suggested by Col. Fyers. There is the more reason to think seriously of this proposal, as before long many of the older Dutch Records are likely to succumb to age, climate, or insects.

Religions.

The Asiatic and Oriental Societies of Europe and their branches in the East are not in the accepted sense of the term "Religious Societies," but a very large share of their enterprise has always been devoted to the investigation of the religion of the East. In these investigations Christian Missionaries have taken an important part, and the earlier Journals of our Society owe much of their value to the contributions of the Rev. D. J. Gogerly, the Rev. Spence Hardy, and others. In the new revival of our Society we shall be glad to receive the assistance of their successors and disciples. In estimating the extent and depth of Mission work in the East, even those who are least inclined to look with partiality on Mission

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agencies must in candour admit that, while the Missionaries of various denominations are labouring to translate the Christian scriptures into all the languages of the world, in order to bring the doctrines of the Christian faith within the comprehension of peoples of every tongue, they avail themselves also of the linguistic abilities thus acquired in doing for the adherents of other religious systems what they have been slow to do for themselves. By means of translating, and still more by critical editions of the original text of the ancient Books which claim to be the inspired repositories of their several creeds, Christian scholars have now made it possible for the adherents of the four chief antagonistic systems prevalent in the world—Christianity, Bráhmanism, Buddhism, and Islám—to study each other's dogmas ; and indeed their own, in the books held sacred by each (*Modern India*, Monier William, p. 204.)

In view of the enthusiastic interest with which Buddhistic studies have lately been prosecuted in Europe, I may be allowed to draw attention to two valuable repositories of Buddhist works, not widely known in Ceylon, and probably unknown altogether to European scholars. I refer to the Vidyódaya College Library, and the Library of the priest Subhúti Terunnánse at Waskaḍuwa. The former Library was founded by the high priest Sumangala, Principal of the College, and opened about two years ago. It contains Páli, Sanskrit and English works. The Páli works are all in manuscript, and consist of the three Piṭakas and grammatical writings. They are all arranged and classified. Most of the Sanskrit works are in print. The Siŋhalese works include both MSS. and printed books. The English books are confined chiefly to works on Buddhism and the History of India. The Library is intended for public use without payment of any subscription. At present it is almost exclusively used by the students of the College. As a large collection is expected shortly to be added to the Library, it would be of advantage that the preparation of a catalogue should be commenced without delay. The Waskaḍuwa Library is the property of Subhúti Terunnánse. It contains a large collection of Buddhist doctrinal works in the Páli language in Burmese characters, together with a good selection of Sanskrit and Siŋhalese works. I may here add that the learned master of this Library has prepared a revised edition of the Páli dictionary—*Abhidhánappadípiká*—which is now being printed at the cost of Government. He has been good enough to send me a Catalogue of the works in his Library, which will be of service for the Páli Text Society, which has been started on the model of the Early English Text Society in order to render accessible to students the hitherto unedited stores of early Buddhist Literature. The prospectus of the Society was published in the first part of our Journal for the present year, and a further statement of the position and intention of the Society will be appended to our next issue.

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Mr. Donald Ferguson has in hand for our Society the text and a translation of "Jinacaritaṇ," a life of Buddha in Páli verse.

A private Society of Buddhists has lately published, at the Satthálóka Press in Colombo, the "Sásanavaṇsa Dípo: a History of the Buddhist Church in Páli verse, compiled from Buddhist scriptures, commentaries and histories, by A'cháriya Vimalasára Thera, of the Ambagahapiṭiya Viháré." The author and publishers of this work state that, having published it "with the view of promoting the interests of religion," they "have decided not to sell it, but to present free copies to those whom they may consider deserving." I have no doubt that they will consent to supply copies to learned Societies and scholars interested in the subject with which it deals.

The Society will learn with pleasure that Professor M. M. Künte, who in the year 1879 gave us an interesting lecture in this room on the Vedic and Buddhistic politics, as the two influences which formed the present Bráhmanic policy of India, has forwarded to us a Paper on *Nirvána,* in its connection with the social and religious developments traced in his lecture. Professor Künte's paper will be printed in our Journal next year, and I will not now anticipate its publication.

A short account of the principal religious ceremonies observed by the Kandyans, by Mr. C. J. R. Le Mesurier, was read at our May meeting. In addition to public ceremonies and processional festivals, it gives an interesting account of ceremonies connected with private life and personal religion, including *Pirit,* a ceremony to ward off evil, performed on the occasion of some epidemic or a serious illness, which is very minutely described; *Godana Mangalyaya* ceremony, performed for the very aged or those who are about to die; *Mataka Dana,* the ceremony of conferring merit on the dead; and *Awa Mangalyaya,* the ceremony in which offerings are made by the friends of a deceased person to the priests "in order that they may obtain merit in the name of the deceased."

We are printing a short paper by Mr. A. T. Shams-ud-dín on the *Míra Kandúri* festival of the Muhammadans, annually held at the Maradána mosque in honor of Míra Saibu—a patron saint of Musulmán ship captains and sailors. Mr. H. C. P. Bell has given a particular interest to this contribution by a note on the legend which attributes to the miraculous intervention of this saint in the Máldives, by destroying a *Jinn,* to which the sacrifice of a girl had to be annually made, the conversion of the Máldive people to Islám.

At the International Congress of Orientalists, held in Berlin in September last, Professor Monier Williams read a paper on the place which the Rig-veda occupies in the Sandyhá, or daily morning and evening prayers, of the Hindús. I allude to this subject here, because it would be interesting for European scholars to know how far the Rig-veda, which serves as a bond of religious communion between

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millions of Indo-A'ryans spread over the vast area of India, distinct from each other in separate caste and communities, and owning subjection to divers laws and customs, forms a constituent part of the religious ceremonial of Ceylon Hindús. In the hope that the enquiry may engage the attention of Members or others interested in the design of our Society, I subjoin an abstract of Prof. William's paper :—

"The Hindú worshipper, before offering his first morning prayer, is required to bring body and mind into a proper condition of purity and attention. He must bathe, apply ashes to his limbs and forehead, bind up his hair, sip pure water thrice from some sacred stream, inhale pure air into his lungs and retain it for some time in his chest by suppressing his breath. These preliminary acts must be completed before the sun rises. Then, turning towards the eastern sky, he utters his first morning prayer in Sanskrit—the celebrated Gayatiri prayer from Rig-veda iii., 62, 10—which like the Lord's Prayer among Christians, and like the Fátihah or first chapter of the Kurán among Muhammadans, must always among Hindús take precedence of all other forms of supplication. It may be thus translated :—'Let me meditate on the excellent glory of the divine vivifying sun. May he enlighten my understanding.' The worshipper next performs a kind of self-baptism by pouring water over his own head, at the same time reciting the hymn Rig-veda x., 9 :—'O, waters, give fine health ; bestow upon me vigour and strength,' etc. After that comes the repetition of the Agha-marshana or 'guilt-extinguishing' hymn (Rig-veda, x., 190), supposed to have an all-powerful effect in removing sin and containing a summary of the course of creation :—'From glowing heat sprang all existing things ; yea, all the order of this universe, etc.' The worshipper then renders homage to the rising sun by throwing water towards that luminary three times, each time repeating the Gayatiri prayer (Rig-veda, iii., 62, 10 : as before), after which he repeats a prayer to the eternal mother Aditi, from Rig-veda, v., 69, 3 :—'I invoke the divine Aditi at early dawn,' etc. The worshipper now sits down on the ground, repeating at the same time a prayer to the Earth :—'Goddess, support me, purify my seat on the bare ground.' This is followed by some remarkable gesticulations. To a spectator it appears as if the worshipper were crossing himself, but he is really touching various parts of his own body—such as eyes, ears, and breast and head—with his fingers, as an act of homage to those organs, supposed to be animated by the Divine presence. After this the sacred Gayatiri prayer ought to be again repeated, and this time muttered 108 times by help of a rosary of 108 beads."

"The worshipper now rises, and, standing erect with his face towards the sun, recites what is called the Mitra hymn to the sun (from Rig-veda, iii., 59) :—'Mitra calls men to activity, sustains the earth and sky, and beholds all creatures with unwinking eye,' etc.

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This is followed by a prayer to the Dawn goddesses (from Rig-veda, iv. 51, 11, :—' Hail, brilliant Dawn : Daughters of Heaven,' etc. The service closes with adoration of the ten quarters of the sky and a recitation of the family pedigree. In the mid-day service, other hymns of the Rig-veda are substituted, such as i., 35, 2 ; iv., 40, 5, and that called Saura-suk a (Rig-veda, i., 50.') In the evening service the prayers to the sun on standing erect is Rig-veda, i., 25. All three services conclude with the following prayer :—' May the one supreme Lord of the Universe be pleased with this my devotion.' "

In connection with this subject, I must mention that the great Petersburg Lexicon of Böhtlingk and Roth, the existence of which gives by itself a new character to all investigations of the Sanskrit language, and pre-eminently to the study of the Vedic texts, has recently been added to the Museum Library.

Inseparable from the subject of popular religion is the subject of popular superstition, which has formed the topic of three papers read during the year. Mr. Louis Nell, at one of our meetings, exhibited a *Húniyam* charm, of which a photograph will be published in our Journal. These *Húniyam* charms represent a Siŋhalese custom in accordance with the widely-extended superstitious device of inflicting disease or disaster on a person's enemies through the potency of a rude *eidolon* or representation of the intended victim. Mr. Nell's note in explanation of this charm derives particular interest from the statement of his belief, founded on long residence among the native Siŋhalese, and careful observation of their superstitious practices and expressions of superstitious ideas, that Buddhism, up to the time of a quite recent reform movement, has not existed at all *as a religion* among the lower castes of the Siŋhalese people, whose priests have been the *Yakadurás* or *Koṭṭáḍiyás*, belonging to the tom-tom-beater and *oliya* castes ; and *Kapurállas* and *Pattinis*, belonging to all castes. The following passage in Mr. Nell's note seems to me to suggest considerations of general importance for a right apprehension of the real extent and influence of Buddhism, and of quite paramount importance as an element in determining the direction of mission enterprise :—

" The tom-tom beaters, the toddy-drawers, and the jaggery-makers have only lately attempted to build Buddhist temples of their own. The Amarapura sect of Buddhists is a modern importation to satisfy the social ambition of the *Mahabaddé* people, candidates of whose community for priestly ordination would have been refused by the previously existing Siamese sect. The latter, though heterodox in this exclusiveness, had confined the rite of ordination to pupils drawn from the *Goiyagama* caste. The liberal and orthodox principle of the Amarapura sect extended in time from the *Mahabaddé* and *Karáwé* to the lower castes, and, as an instance, the jaggery people

(*Hakuru*) near Galle have built a temple, and their priests in yellow robes and with begging bowls in their hands are now seen obtaining the food of mendicants from the hands of their own friends. The profound meditative air of the young mendicants and the evident pride with which their friends give alms and honor the new priesthood are very striking. This is quite a reform, and Buddhism, perhaps, for the first time is subverting what other missions have not hitherto observed as a likely field of conversion."

Mr. Nell has also favored us with a paper on the Siṇhalese observance of the *Kaláwa*, which he interprets to be "a moving principle and local predisposition following a course in the human body in relation to the course of the moon in her increase and decrease." The fact that *Kaláwa* tables are published by the *Lakrivikiraṇa* Press and iṇ native vernacular almanacs indicates a belief of wide-spread recognition, but Mahá-Mudaliyár De Zoysa found the explanations of two of the best *Vedarálas* inconsistent and contradictory. I suppose that *Kaláwa* may be interpreted generally as the influence of the phases of the moon on the organization or temperament of the human body.

An elaborate paper on "Omens" by Mudaliyár S. Jayatilaka of Kuruṇegala wasread before the Society in October, showing how large an influence they exercise on the daily concerns of Siṇhalese life. The omens derived from the appearance and cry of lizards in particular are dealt with in an exhaustive manner, account being taken of their position relative to the person interested, with reference to every day in the week.

Mahá-Mudaliyár De Zoysa is preparing for publication a translation of a sermon of Buddha on Omens.

This is really a subject of practical importance. It has been asserted that the impossibility of understanding the motives of the people in India is partly due to the control exercised over them by superstitious influences. The remark, perhaps, applies with equal truth to the people of Ceylon.

Literature.

In the domain of Literature I desire, in the first place, to invite attention to the labours of Mr. William Guṇatilaka who has been engaged for some time on three important works; the *Bálávabodhana* of Kásyapa; a new edition of *Pánini's Grammar;* and a MS. of the *Meghadúta* of Kálidása. The Bálávabodhana is a reproduction of the grammar of Chandra by a Buddhist priest named Kásyapa who lived in Ceylon about seven centuries ago. Incidental allusions to Chandra show him to have been the founder of one of the principal schools of Sanskrit grammarians, but his grammar has been supposed hitherto to exist only in a Thibetan version. It was

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based on the model and intended as an improvement on Pánini's *Ashṭáḍhyáyi*, from which it appears to differ by the artificial *memoria technica*, which constitutes the language of Sanskrit grammarians, being in certain instances even more ingeniously and comprehensively constructed than the *sútras* of Pánini. Provision is thus made for grammatical combinations which it taxed the utmost subtlety of Pánini's commentators to include in the interpretation of his *sútras*. The MS. of the Bálávabodhana,* first discovered by Mr. Guṇatilaka, belongs to the Lankátilaka Viháré near Kandy. Two copies have since been found, one belonging to the Suduhumpola Viháré, and the other to the Oriental Library of the Vidyódaya College, already alluded to. These copies are all in Siṇhalese characters, but Mr. Guṇatilaka has transcribed the whole work in Devanágari character, and the text collected from the three copies, together with a short preface and explanatory notes is now only withheld from the press by the heavy expenditure involved in its issue. Mr. Guṇatilaka is no doubt justified in his opinion that the publication of this work would be of great service to Oriental schools in throwing new light upon questions relative to the historical connection of the different systems of Sanskrit Grammar and upon other problems now engaging attention.

The same difficulty interferes with the publication of a work, undertaken by Mr. Guṇatilaka, of at least equal importance—an edition of Pánini which will enable students acquainted with the language of Sanskrit general literature to study Pánini's *sútras* without the aid of a teacher. The text, translation, and notes will not be separately printed, but the translation of each *sútra* will be given immediately under its Devanágari text, and the notes immediately under the translation in smaller type. *Várttikás*, *Paribháshás*, *Ishtis* and *Kárikás*, whenever they occur will be quoted, translated, and explained. Alphabetical lists of the *sútras* and *gaṇas* will be appended, as well as an alphabetical glossary of terms with reference to the *sútras* in which they occur. The work may fairly be called exhaustive, for the specimen which Mr. Guṇatilaka has been good enough to send me in MS. indicates that hardly any question can suggest itself to the student of Pánini in his necessarily laborious study which has not been anticipated and answered. In the explanation of each word, every step taken is supported by authority, in the same manner as a problem or theorem of Euclid. Mr. Guṇatilaka's present intention is to issue as a specimen a part of the work consisting of two printed octavo sheets, and to circulate it among Oriental scholars in the hope that a sufficient number of

* A detailed account of the work, which is stated to bear the same relation, as regards matter and arrangement, to Chandra's Grammar as the *Laghukaumudi* does to that of Pánini, was published in the *Academy* of January 24th and 31st, 1880.

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subscribers may be found to justify the publication. I trust that our Society may be able to assist Mr. Guṇatilaka, both directly and indirectly, in bringing to issue both of these learned and laborious works, and with this view I propose to bring the subject before the Committee.

The importance of these works and the labour they have involved have induced Mr. Guṇatilaka to entrust to another hand the preparation of a new edition of the Meghadúta of Kálidása from a MS. discovered by him in the Kandy Oriental Library. The text of the poem in this MS., written in Siṇhalese characters, appears to differ little from the Devanágari versions published by Gildemeister and others, but the MS. derives its value from a short appropriate introduction, a literal and correct Siṇhalese translation, and explanatory notes in Siṇhalese. In connection with what I have already said, it is especially interesting to note that the Siṇhalese commentator in this version refers to Chandra in the same way as the commentary of Mallinátha supports his views by reference to Páṇini. The date of this MS., corresponding to the year 1717 of the Christian era, shows that Sanskrit was studied in Ceylon in the classical period of Siṇhalese literature equally with Páli and Eḷu. It will be published, with the assistance of Mr. Guṇatilaka, by Mr. Pánabokka, late President of Dumbara Gansabháwa.

I understand that Paṇḍit Guṇasékara is engaged upon a Siṇhalese translation of Meghadúta from another version.

A Member of our Society, Mr. W. P. Raṇasiṇha, is preparing a Paper on the Siṇhalese language, which we hope to include in an early Number of our Journal.

Perhaps the greatest literary need felt in Ceylon is the want of a good Siṇhalese and English Dictionary, a want of which I am very often reminded in my official capacity. A mixed Committee of Englishmen and Siṇhalese, to prepare a dictionary on the basis of Clough's work, seems to be the agency most likely to lead to good results.

I must include under the general head of literature a paper on Hindú astronomy published in our journal by Mr. S. Mervin, a Tamiḷ gentleman of Jaffna. The writer justly points out that Hindú astronomy is a very different thing from Hindú mythology, though many Europeans seem to think that the mythology and the astronomy of the Hindús are identical. This confusion undoubtedly pervades a brilliant passage in Lord Macaulay's writings, often quoted to throw ridicule on the scientific pretensions of the ancient Eastern world. The recent studies of scientific scholars have, however, conclusively shown that India early possessed many astronomical facts, many observations of astronomical phenomena, and many rules and methods of astronomical calculation. It is of

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interest to our Society that native students should recognize that the fantastic legends of Hindú mythology belong to the domain of poetical imagination, and look for the science of astronomy in *Súrya Siddhánta* and treatises similar, which remain as the relics of a system of astronomical science carried to a degree of perfection that excites the admiration of modern scientific students.

Alluding to the subject of astronomy, I must here record the generous offer made by Mr. E. Heelis to the Society of a 4-inch aperture astronomical telescope, on condition of an observatory being built for it adjoining the Museum. We were unfortunately obliged to decline this offer from inability to comply with the very reasonable condition attached to it.

Art.

I have very few words to say on this occasion on the subject of Art. Mr. Smither read a paper at our April meeting on some sculptures which he had examined on a visit to Horaṇa. His suggestion that these sculptures should be brought to Colombo so as to be saved from further deterioration and depredations has been carried out, and they were deposited in the Museum a few days ago.

Social Condition of the People.

The official position which I occupy leads me naturally to assign the place of first importance under this head to the subject of Public Instruction, but for the same reason I may be allowed to content myself to-day with a reference to my Administration Report, in which I endeavour to give full and explicit information on all the work of my Department. It is however appropriate to this occasion that I should notice with pleasure the assistance I have received from several learned Buddhist priests, both in co-operation with the principal design of the Department and also in the preparation of books for the native youths of the Colony.

Appropriate to the subject of school work is the subject of Games. Mr. Le Mesurier is preparing a Paper on 'The Games of the Kandyans' which will no doubt be an interesting supplement to Mr. Leopold Ludovici's contribution to our Journal for the year 1873, 'On the Sports and Games of the Siṇhalese.' If the child is father of the man, it is good for those whose business it is to understand the ways of the men to learn the pursuits of the children, and, as a relaxation from the graver labours of our Society. I do not think that the papers of our Journal offer any contribution so full of genial instruction as Mr. Ludovici's article.

Mr. H. C. P. Bell, C.C.S., has a Paper ready on 'Siṇhalese Ceremonies connected with Pádí Cultivation in the Low-country, with specimens of songs sung during operations.' A short Paper on the

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same subject, but limited to a Kandyan (Kẹgalla) district, by Mr. R. W. Ievers, C.C.S., was published in our Journal for 1880.

The Proverbs of a people reveal many secrets of their social condition, domestic life, and private morality, and have always therefore been found an attractive study. Mahá-Mudaliyár De Zoysa has published in our Journal another contribution to our knowledge of *Siṇhalese Proverbs*, and I have also to notice the publication of two other collections—the *Atita Vákya Dípaniya*, by A. Mendis Sénánáyaka, and the *Pathya Vákya* or *Níti-sástra*, published by A. D. A. Wijayasiṇha. The aphorisms in the last-mentioned collection are skilfully arranged under separate heads, so as to supply in about 250 short lines a code of public and private morality.

Geology and Mineralogy.

Mr. A. C. Dixon, who is the most active member of our Society in the department of Geology and Mineralogy, has continued his visits to different districts for the study of their geological formations. The recent activity of gold-mining operations in Southern India naturally drew attention to the known existence of gold in several parts of this Island, and Mr. Dixon read a short Paper on the subject at our April meeting. He has since "prospected" several districts, and has been good enough to furnish me with a summary of his researches. A small nugget taken near *Wakwẹlla* (Galle) and weighing over 6 grains was tested and found to be genuine alluvial gold, which had been rolled some distance and deposited by an old stream. Careful search at the place revealed no traces of gold. In the *Sabaragamuwa* district Mr. Dixon visited Rakwána, North and Central Kukuḷu-kóralé, and Kolonná-kóralé. In this district there are several valuable deposits of gems still unworked, but no evidence of gold was found. In the stream which flows past the Assistant Government Agent's bungalow at Ratnapura, further evidence has been found of the existence of gold in considerable quantities. Mr. Dixon has, however, not yet been able to explore this stream. At our Meeting in April Mr. Dixon alluded to his first visit to *Raṇboḍa*, and exhibited a specimen of gold from the district. On a subsequent visit several well-defined reefs were found, samples of which were sent to London and assayed, yielding 15 grs. to the ton. In *Doḷosbágé* two or three good reefs were found, but the yield here was only 4 grs. to the ton, though one sample of surface quartz from the same reef gave 14 grains. In the lower end of *Maskẹliya* valley ("Theberton") two good reefs were found. From these gold has been obtained, but not in paying quantities as yet, though the prospect of this district as regards paying gold is considered good. From *Raṇgalla* surface quartz has been tested with a yield of 1 dwt. 1¼ gr. per ton. From *Héwáhẹta* quartz has been examined yielding 10 grains to the ton. Traces of alluvial gold and platinum were found in the *Dẹduru-oya.*

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Mr. Dixon has found the reported *Mahara* gold to be *pyrites*. Specimens from a quartz reef in *Kandanuwara* contained 3 per cent. of copper and the element telurium, which is always found in company with gold.

Climate and Meteorology.

The long connection of Colonel Fyers, R.E., with our Society, of which he has been for many years President, has borne lasting fruit in the establishment of the meteorological observations which may now be considered, I suppose, as a permanent part of the work of his Department. Systematic observations have been carried under Col. Fyers' direction at the principal stations of the Island since 1870. A daily weather report is now published in the Post Office Bulletin, and four morning observations at Colombo, Galle, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, and Jaffna are telegraphed daily to Calcutta for the storm signal service. Copies of the monthly return of daily observations and annual reports, as well as diagrams giving the mean monthly rainfall for the number of years in which observations have been taken, are sent to London, Paris, Brussels, New York, Canada, Calcutta, Batavia, and Algiers, and are noticed in the Administration Report of the Meteorological Department of the Government of India for 1879-80, as follows (p. 37) :—

'The Island of Ceylon in which a system of meteorological observations has been carried on for some years under the direction of Col. Fyers, R.E., communicates a monthly abstract of observations from which a selection is made for the tabular abstract given in the annual report, and I have lately included an abstract of the rainfall registers communicated to us from Singapore. Thus the extreme geographical range of the region for which meteorological data are collected for discussion during the past years comprises 53 degrees of longitude and 33 degrees of latitude.'

The period over which systematic observations extend has been as yet too short for reliable deductions to be made from the statistics collected.

Mr. J. Stoddart is at present investigating the subject of the very partial ranges of the rainfall in Ceylon, the prevalence of high winds over partial areas, and the influence of the monsoon-gales in the Bay of Bengal, and storms on the Bombay coast and on the coast of Ceylon In conjunction with Captain Donnan, Master Attendant, he is also taking observations to show the direction, force and altitude of the waves in the Colombo harbour, when the wind is in the North and North-East.

Botany.

The paramount influence of agriculture on the prosperity of this colony has, to a great extent, removed the department of Botany

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from the concerns of this Society to more open and more accessible channels of communication and discussion. The year has been especially marked by the publication of *The Tropical Agriculturist*, a monthly periodical established by the Editors of the *Ceylon Observer*, constituting in the strictest sense of the word a repertory *(repertorium ubi omnia repiriri possint)* of information on all subjects connected with Tropical Botany and Agriculture. To its pages, to the Report of the Director of the Botanical Gardens, and the Reports of Mr. Marshall Ward on Leaf Disease, all who are interested in this subject will naturally refer for the operations of the year. In connection with the Melbourne Exhibition, Mr. Wllliam Ferguson was good enough to furnish, at my request, a set of Notes descriptive of 96 specimens of Ceylon timber sent to the Exhibition. I have sent several copies of these Notes to the Government Agents and their Assistants, and to other persons to whom I believe them likely to prove useful. I will only add that an elementary Manual of Botany in Siŋhalese has been prepared, and will shortly be published by the Department of Public Instruction. It will, I hope, be the means of carrying profitable instruction and amusement into many humble homes.

Zoology.

The first two parts of the beautiful engravings of Ceylon Lepidoptera, with descriptive letterpress, now being published by Government, were received about the middle of the year, and the remaining portion of the work is expected very shortly.

A Paper by Mudaliyár Samuel Jayatilaka on the Honey Bees of Ceylon and the native method of Bee Culture was read at our April Meeting. This Paper derived unexpected interest from the visit of Mr. Frank Benton, an American Bee amateur, who had the intention of writing a Paper for our Society on the subject of our bees, but was prevented by a severe attack of malarial fever caught whilst bee hunting in the jungles of the Kurunégala District. Mr. Jayatilaka has stated that he got more practical information about bees from Mr. Benton in a week than he had from all other sources in many years. Mr. Benton learned in Java that wax is imported into Netherlands India, chiefly from Holland, to the annual value of two millions of rupees. The wax is chiefly used in dyeing the sarongs and other cloths of the people. Mr. Benton's visit to Ceylon can hardly fail to be productive of useful results, as the Cyprian bees introduced by him are doing well with Mr. W. H. Wright and Mudáliyár Jayatilaka, who thinks that they are more industrious and faster workers and more tractable than our common Ceylon bees. It is stated that Ceylon bees do not seem to approach vanilla flowers when in bloom, whereas the Cyprians are found continually among them, and it is hoped that they may turn out good fertilizers, and thus save

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much of the labour now involved in the process of artificial fertilization. There seems to be no reason why bee culture in Ceylon should not become an industry of considerable importance.

Dr. Vanderstraaten read at our October Meeting a synopsis of a Paper which he has prepared on 'Sericulture,' illustrating in detail the process of raising silkworms. As this Paper has not yet been forwarded to our Secretary for publication, I am unable to refer to it. The subject is one of undoubted interest, and I may mention that the Rev. Father Palla is endeavouring at Mount Calvary, Galle, to introduce the rearing of silkworms as an industry well adapted to the habits and inclinations of the people of Ceylon.

Mr. Bell's Report on the Máldives.

A considerable part of Col. Fyers' Address last year was devoted to information derived from our Secretary, Mr. H. C. P. Bell, with reference to his recent visit to the Máldive Islands. Mr. Bell's Report, as the result of this visit, is now being printed as a Sessional Paper by desire of the Secretary of State. I have had the advantage of seeing the proof sheets as printed, and it was my intention to give a summary of the information they contain, as the Papers of our Society may probably come before a circle of readers whom Sessional Papers are not at all likely to reach. For this reason, I regret that the Report has been published as a Sessional Paper and not by our Society, to whose Journal a contribution so comprehensive and complete would have been an acceptable addition. As a Sessional Paper, however, it will no doubt hold a distinct place of its own, and Mr. Bell will perhaps make, or allow others to make, an epitome of its principal results for the benefit of our Journal I feel that it is impossible to do justice to a labour of such value at the close of a narrative of the Society's work, present and prospective—imperfect, I well know, but likely, I fear, to be thought already prolix.

On the conclusion of the Address,

The Hon. W H. Ravenscroft proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his most able Address, to which he was sure they had all listened with very great pleasure. Mr. W Ferguson seconded.

His Excellency the Governor felt sure that the Members round the table had all listened with very great pleasure to that Address.—*Motion agreed to nem. con.*

7.—A vote of thanks to the Governor for presiding brought the Meeting to a close.

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Additions to Library.

Bibliotheca Indica : A Collection of Oriental Works published by the R. A. S. of Bengal, New Series, Nos. 461 and 462, Calcutta, 1881.—*Presented.*

Boletin da Sociedade De Geographia De Lisboa, 2nd Series, No. 6, Lisboa, 1881.—*Presented.*

Essai Sur Le Pali, Paris, 1826.

Indian Antiquary, Vol. 10, *i.e.* January to November, 1881.—*Presented.*

Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, May, 1881.—*Presented.*

Journal of the R. A. S. of Bengal, Vol. L., Part 1 (Nos. 3 and 4, 1881) and Part 2 (No. 3, 1881).—*Presented.*

Journal of the North China Branch of the R. A. S., 1880, New Series, No. XV.—*Presented.*

Madras Journal of Literature and Science (The), for the years 1878, 1879, and 1880, edited by G. Oppert, 1879-81.—*Presented.*

Maleisch Nederduitsch Woordenboek, 1863.—*Presented by D. W. Ferguson.*

Memoires sur Les Contrees Occidentales, par Hiouen-Thsang, translated by M. Stanislas Julien, Tome i, ii, Paris.

Notulen Van De Algemeene en Buturs, Vergaderingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen } *Presented.*

Deel	xviii.,	1880,	No.	1.	Batavia.
Do.	do.	,,	,,	2.	,,
Do.	do.	,,	,,	3.	,,
Do.	do.	,,	,,	4.	,,
Do.	xix.,	1881	,,	1.	,,
Do.	do.	,,	,,	2.	,,

Proceedings of the R. A. S. Bengal, No. 8, August, 1881.—*Presented.*

Report of a Visit to the Torrent Regions of the Hautes and Basses Alpes, and also to Mount Faron Toulon, by E. MacA. Moir, Calcutta, 1881.—*Presented.*

Suggestions regarding the Management of the leased Forests of Busahir in the Suttey Valley of the Punjab, by D. Brandis, F.R.S., C.I.E., Simla, 1881.—*Presented.*

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Transactions of the R. A. S. of Japan, from 30th October, 1872, to 9th October, 1873, Yokohama, 1874.
Do. do. Vol. VII., Part i., Feb., 1879.
Do. do. „ VIII., „ iv., Dec., 1880.
Do. do. „ IX., „ i., Feb., 1881.
Do. do. „ IX., „ ii., Aug., 1881. } *Presented.*

Tropical Agriculturist (The), Colombo, December, 1881.

Tydschrift Voor Indische Taal, Land, En Volkenkunde, Deel xxvi., Aflevering 2, 1880.
Do. do. do. 3, 1880.
Do. do. do. 4, 1880.
Do. do. do. 5 & 6, 1880.
Do. xxvii., do. 1, 1881. } *Presented.*

Vocabulary of the English and Malay Languages, by F. A. Swettenham, Vol. 2.

Verhandelingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschappen van Kunsten en Wetenschappen, Deel xli., 2*e* Stuk, Batavia, 1880.—*Presented.*

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Dr. The Honorary Treasurer in account with the Royal Asiatic Society. *Cr.*

	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
To Balance on 6th December, 1880 ...	—		1,462	84
Amount of annual subscriptions, entrance fees, and sale of Journals to 15th December, 1881 ...	1,141	75		
Less, amounts outstanding	105	0		
			1,036	75
Total ... Rs.			2,499	59

	Rs.	cts
By cost of copy of Adam's "Panorama of World's History" ...	60	0
Do. Ransonêt's "Sketches of Ceylon"	36	0
Advertising	210	99
Book-binding	305	50
Books, &c., purchase of ...	1,158	97
Carriage and cart hire ...	33	12
Furniture	14	50
Pay of Clerk	27	50
„ Compositor	20	0
„ Peon (four months) ...	32	0
Postage	55	3
Stationery	13	12
Sundries	22	97
Balance at O. B.C.	502	70
Balance in hands of Hon. Secretary	7	19
Total ... Rs.	2,499	59

A. MURRAY, C.E., A.M.I.C.E.,
Honorary Treasurer.

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OFFICE BEARERS, 1882.

Patron.

His Excellency Sir Jas. R. Longden, K.C.M.G., Governor.

Vice-Patron.

Hon. J. Douglas, C.M.G.

President.

C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G.

Vice-Presidents.

Hon. R. Cayley, C.J. | Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft, C.C.S.

Honorary Treasurer.

J. G. Wardrop, Esq.

Honorary Secretary.

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., C.C.S.

Committee.

T. Berwick, Esq.
J. Capper, Esq.
A. C. Dixon, Esq. B.SC., F.C.S.
Major A. Ewing.
W. Ferguson, Esq., F.L.S.
L. F. Lee, Esq., C.C.S.
A. Murray, Esq.
Rev. E. F. Miller, M.A.
J. G. Smither, Esq. F.R.I.B.A.
Hon. P. Ráma-Náthan, J.P.
J. L. Vanderstraaten, Esq., M.D.

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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

(CEYLON BRANCH.)

The Asiatic Society of Ceylon was instituted 7th February, 1845; and by the unanimous vote of a Special General Meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, held on the 7th February, 1846, it was declared a Branch of that Society, under the designation of "The Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society."

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Preamble.

1. The design of the Society is to institute and promote inquiries into the History, Religions, Languages, Literature, Arts, and Social Condition of the present and former inhabitants of this Island, with its Geology and Mineralogy, its climate and Meteorology, its Botany and Zoology.

Members.

2. The Society shall consist of *Resident* or *Ordinary*, *Honorary*, and *Corresponding* Members; all elected by ballot at a General Meeting of the Society.

(*a*) Members residing in Ceylon are considered *Resident*.

(*b*) Persons who contribute to the objects of the Society in an eminent and distinguished manner are, on the recommendation of the Committee, eligible as *Honorary* Members.

(*c*) All Military Medical Officers in Ceylon are *Honorary* Members of the Society.

(*d*) Persons residing at a distance from Colombo may, upon special grounds, and on the recommendation of the Committee, be elected *Corresponding* Members.

Entrance Fee and Subscriptions.

3. Every *Ordinary* Member of the Society shall pay, on admission, an entrance fee of Rs. 5·25, and an annual subscription of Rs. 10·50. Annual subscriptions shall be considered due on the 1st of January of each year. Members who fail to pay their subscriptions by the end of the year (provided they have been called for) shall be considered, *ipso facto*, to have relinquished their connection

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with the Society. Members who have been absent from Ceylon have the privilege of rejoining the Society within twelve months of their return to the Island, on payment of the subscription for the current year.

(*a*) The privilege of *Life Membership* may be ensured by the payment of Rs. 105, with entrance fee on admission to the Society; Rs. 84, after two years; and Rs. 73·50, after four or more years' subscriptions.

(*b*) *Honorary* and *Corresponding* Members shall not be subject to any entrance fee or subscription, and are to be admitted to the Meetings of the Society and to the privilege of its Library, but are not competent to vote at Meetings, to be elected to any of its offices, or take any part in its private business.

(*c*) Persons desirous of rejoining the Society may be re-admitted Members without entrance fee, subject to the discretion of the Managing Committee.

Office-bearers.

4. The Office-bearers of the Society shall be, a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, all appointed by open vote at the Annual Meeting of the Society; and their functions shall be as follows:—

(*a*) The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, shall take the Chair at all Meetings of the Society and of the Committee, maintain order, collect the votes, and cause the laws of the Society to be observed and enforced.

(*b*) The Treasurer shall receive, collect, and pay out all moneys on behalf of the Society, keep an account thereof including the vouchers, and submit a statement of the pecuniary affairs of the Society to the Annual Meeting, and at all other times as may be required.

(*c*) The Secretary shall arrange, give notice of, and attend, all Meetings of the Society and of the Committee, and record their proceedings. He shall also edit the Journal, and exercise a general superintendence under the authority of Committee.

In the event of any Office-bearer leaving the Colony for three (3) months, it shall be competent for the Committee to fill up the office at the next General Meeting.

Committee.

5. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee of nine (9) Members (with power to add to their number) in addition

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to Office-bearers, and elected in like manner: but subject always to the Rules and Regulations passed at General Meetings. Three (3) to form a quorum.

Mode of Admission.

6. Members desirous of proposing candidates for admission to the Society shall give notice to the Secretary, in writing, at least a fortnight before the assembly of any General Meeting. Admission to Membership of the Society shall be by ballot at any General Meeting. No candidate to be considered as elected, unless he has in his favour two-thirds of the votes taken.

Meetings.

7. An Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held in December, and General Meetings at such other times as may be determined by the Committee; due notice of the Meetings, and of any intended motions which do not come through the Committee, and the nomination of new Members, being always first given by the Secretary.

8. The course of business at General Meetings shall be as follows:—

(*a*) The Minutes of the last Meeting shall be read by the Secretary, and signed by the Chairman.

(*b*) Candidates for Membership shall then be proposed, balloted for, admitted or otherwise.

(*c*) Reports of Committees shall be read, and communications made of all articles received, and donations to the Society.

(*d*) Any specific business submitted by the Committee, or appointed for consideration, shall be proceeded with.

(*e*) Papers and Communications for the Society shall then be read.

9. Every Member of the Society has the privilege of introducing, either personally or by card, one or two visitors to the General Meetings.

10. Special Committees may be formed for the prosecution of any specific object or matter of research. These must be named at a General Meeting, and will act as much as possible in co-operation with the Secretary of the Society, who will be a constituent member of all such Committees.

Papers and Communications.

11. All Papers and Communications shall be forwarded to the Secretary at least a week before the assembling of the General Meeting at which they are intended to be read. Such Papers shall be read by the Author, or the Secretary, or by some Member of the Society.

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12. All Papers and other Communications to the Society read or submitted at any General Meeting shall be open to free discussion; and such Papers and discussions may be printed in the Transactions of the Society, if approved by the Committee.

13. The writer of any Paper which is published in the Society's Journal shall be entitled to receive twenty-five (25) printed copies of his Paper.

Journals.

14. One copy of each Journal shall be sent by the Secretary to every Member who has paid his subscription for the current year, and to every Honorary Member; and every such Member may procure a second copy, on application to the Secretary. Members requiring more than two (2) copies of the Journal can be supplied with them at half the price charged the public.

Suspension and Alteration of Rules.

15. It shall be competent for any General Meeting to suspend any of the above Rules.

16. No alteration of Rules shall be made except at the Annual Meeting, and unless carried by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present; due notice of any proposed alteration having been given in writing to the Secretary at least a fortnight before the Meeting.

RULES FOR THE LIBRARY.

1. The Library is open on week days (except Fridays) from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M., and on Sundays from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M.

2. The Librarian shall keep a Register of Books belonging to the Library, showing their title, name of author, date of receipt, whence obtained, edition, number of volumes, number of plates, place and date of publication.

3. All Books, Pamphlets, and Periodicals received for the Library shall, immediately on receipt, be entered in the Library Register, and stamped with the Library stamp. The Librarian shall see that each Plate and Map in books received for the Library is carefully stamped on the reverse side with the Library stamp. New books received shall be stamped on the cover with the words "Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch."

4. A book shall be kept in which shall be entered the title of very work lent out, the number of plates, if any, it contains at the tme of its being lent, the name of the Member borrowing thc same,

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and the date on which it is lent. A Member applying in person for a work shall sign a receipt for the book and plates it may contain at the time of borrowing. A Member not applying in person shall send a written request for the books he requires, and this request shall be filed in the Library as a voucher, the Librarian duly noting on it the books actually lent out. The Librarian shall send with each packet of books a form of receipt, to be signed and returned to the borrower. Should any Member prefer to keep a private register of books borrowed from the Library, it shall be the duty of the Librarian to enter in such register the names of all books issued, and to initial receipt when returned.

5. On return of any books to the Library, the Librarian after satisfying himself that the book is in the same condition as it was when lent out, shall insert opposite to the entry, in the loan register, the date on which the book has been returned, and return to the borrower the receipt or other voucher given by him, duly cancelled. And if on the return of any book the Librarian shall perceive that it has sustained any damage, since it was taken from the Library, he shall make a note of the particulars and report the same to the Honorary Secretary.

6. No Member shall remove any book, pamphlet, periodical, or any other article the property of the Society, from the Library without giving the Librarian a receipt for the same.

7. No Book, Pamphlet, Journal, or Periodical, &c., shall be lent out before the expiration of one week after its receipt in the Library.

8. Periodicals and unbound Journals in numbers shall be returned after the expiration of one week.

9. Works of reference and certain rare and valuable books, &c., must not be taken out of the Library without special permission of the Committee.

10. Non-resident Members are entitled to take out Books, Plates, &c., from the Library on making special application to the Honorary Secretary, and signing an obligation to defray the expenses of carriage, and to make compensation for any book, plate, manuscript &c., which may be lost or damaged.

11. No Member shall be permitted to have more than three sets* of books from the Library in his possession at any one time without the special permission of the Honorary Secretary.

12. Except with the special sanction of the Committee, resident Members shall not be permitted to keep books, &c., borrowed from the Library for more than fourteen days, and non-resident Members for more than one month.

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* N.B.—Each volume of the Transactions of any learned Society or similar publication shall be counted as one work.

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13. All books, except in the case stated below, shall be returned to the Library before the 1st January in each year. Early in December, the Librarian, having previously ascertained that the books are actually absent from the Library, shall forward to all Members who have books belonging to the Society in their possession, a letter requesting that such books be returned before the end of the month. Non-resident Members who, on the 1st January, have had books, &c., for less than one month may send a detailed list of such books instead of returning them.

14. The Librarian shall report to the Honorary Secretary, for the information of the Committee each year in January, the names of all books not returned, and of the Members by whom they were borrowed.

15. If application be made to the Librarian for a book already taken out from the Library, he shall issue a notice to the borrower, requiring him to return it free of expense, within one week from the receipt of such notice if a resident Member, and within one month if a non-resident Member.

16. If any book borrowed from the Library be lost, damaged, defaced by writing or otherwise, the borrower shall be held responsible for such loss or damage; and if the book belong to a set, he shall be liable to make good the set to the satisfaction of the Committee, or pay its value.

17. No books, &c., shall be issued from the Library to any Member while he retains any property of the Society in contravention of the above rules.

18. A book shall be kept in the Library in which Members may write the names of any books, &c., they may recommend to be purchased for the Library.

19. No person who is not a Member of the Society shall be permitted to take away any book from the Library without special authority from the Committee, or to have access to the Library without permission of a Member of the Committee.

20. In no case shall any Member be allowed to take out of Ceylon any book, manuscript, pamphlet, periodical, &c., belonging to the Society.

21. The Librarian shall be held personally responsible for the safety of the books, &c., belonging to the Society's Library under his charge, and that these rules are properly carried out, as far as lies in his power.

22. The Committee may at any time call in all books, &c., and may cease to issue them for such periods as the interests of the Society may require.

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LIST OF MEMBERS.

(*Corrected up to December* 31*st*, 1881.)

Life Members.

Davids, T. W. Rhys.
Dawson, R.
Ferguson, A. M.
Ferguson, A. M., Jr.
Ferguson, D. W.
Ferguson, J.
Grant, J. N.
Gunn, J.
Nicholson, Rev. J.
Rains, S. W.
Slorach, J.

Honorary Members.

Holdsworth, E.
Künté, M. M.
De Zoysa, L., Mahá Mudaliyár.
Military Medical Officers in Ceylon.

Ordinary Members.

Andree, J. R.
Arneil, J. A.
Bailey, J. B. A., C.C.S.
Baumgartner, G. A., C.C.S.
Bell, H. C. P., C.C.S.
Berwick, T.
Boake, W. J. S., L.R.C S., C.C.S.
Britton, E. C.
Browne, G. D. L., C.C.S.
Bruce, C., C.M.G.
Burrows, S. M., C.C.S.
Capper, J.
Carbery, J , M.B., C.M.
Cayley, Hon. R., M.A.
Churchill, J. F., M.I.C.E.
Coghill, J. D. M., M.D.
Coomára Swámy, P.
Crawford, M. S., C.C.S.
Cull, J. B., B.A.
Daendliker, P.
Davidson, W. E., C C S.
Dean, J. G.
Dias, W. A., M.D., *St. Andrew's*, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.. *England.*
Dias, P., Mahá Mudaliyár
Dickman, C., C.C.S.
Dixon, A. C., B. Sc., F.C.S.
Douglas, Hon. J., C.M.G.
Duncan, W. H. G.
Ewing, A., Major
Ferguson, W., F.L.S.
Fernando, Rev. C. J. B., O.S.B.
Fyers, Hon. Col. A. B., R.E.
Green, H. W., C.C.S.
Green, S.
Grenier, S., J.P.
Grinlinton, J. J., C.E., F.R.G.S.
Hall, C. P.
Heelis, E.
Hill, G. C., B.A.

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Hope, Adrian.
Ievers, R. W., M.A., C.C.S.
James, W. K., F.R.G.S., F.R. HIST. S.
Jayatilaka, S., Mudaliyár
Jayawardhana, A., Mudaliyár
Kynsey, W. R., M.K.Q.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I.
Lawrie, A. C.
Lee, L. F., C.C.S.
Leechman, G. B.
Le Mesurier, C. J. R., C.C.S.
Lewis, J. P., M.A., C.C.S.
Loos, F. C.
Loos, J., M.D., *St. Andrew's*, M.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., *Edinburgh.*
MacVicar, H. J.
Mason, J. D., C.C.S.
Miller, E. F., Rev. M.A.
Morgan, J. F., M.R.C.S., *England*, M.B., C.M., *Aberdeen.*
Moss, A. S., A.M.I.C.E., F.M.S.
Murray, A., C.E., A.M.I.C.E.
Nell, L.
Nevill, H., C.C.S.
Perera, E. F.
Perera, J. M.
Plaxton, J. W., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.
Price, F. H., C.C.S.
Pyemont-Pyemont, L. O., C.C.S.
Rájapaksa, S. D'A. W., J.P., Mudaliyár
Ráma-Náthan, Hon. P., J.P.
Ranasinha, W. P.
Ravenscroft, Hon. W. H., C.C.S.
Robinson, E.
Rockwood, W. G., M.D., *Madras.*
Sajarajasinham, N.
Saunders, Hon. F. R., C.C.S.
Saxton, G. S., C.C.S.
Sharpe, W. E. T., C.C.S.
Skeen, W. L. H.
Smither, J. G., F.R.I.B.A.
Soysa, C. H. De, J.P.
Stoddart, Hon. J.
Tate, L. J. E. G., C.C.S.
Thomas, A. H.
Trimen, H., M.B., F.L.S.
Vanderstraaten, J. L., M.D., M.R.C.P., *St. Andrew's;* L.S.A., *London;* L.R.C.S., *Edinburgh.*
Van Dort, W. G., M.D., C.M., *Aberdeen.*
Wardrop, J. G.
White, H., C.C.S.
Worthington, G. E., C.C.S.
Wragg, W. T., B.A., C.C.S.

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29 LIBRARY

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Lowell fund.
(1882 to 1887-8)

(CEYLON BRANCH.)

Vol. VII.

PROCEEDINGS,

1882.

COLOMBO:
FRANK LUKER, ACTING GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CEYLON.

1883.

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PROCEEDINGS

1882.

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PROCEEDINGS.—1882.

Committee Meeting.

January 25, 1882.

Present:

C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

T. Berwick, Esq.
W. Ferguson, Esq.
J. G. Smither, Esq.
J. L. Vanderstraaten, Esq., M.D.
J. G. Wardrop, Esq. Hon. Treasurer.

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

1.—Read and confirmed Minutes of last Meeting.

2.—The Hon. Secretary stated that the Government Printer found himself unable to undertake the reprinting of further Journals owing to pressure of work. He therefore suggested that arrangements be made with the "Ceylon Times" Press to reprint the Journals Nos. 9–12 (Vol. III.), 1856–1861. No. 6 (Vol. II., Part II.), 1853, would, he hoped, be completed shortly, and Nos. 4 and 5 (Vol. II., Part I.), 1848–50 as opportunity offered.—*Approved.*

3.—The Hon. Secretary suggested that a General Meeting be called at an early date, at which he would be prepared to read:—

(*a*) Extracts from Mr. A. Gray's translation of Ibn Batúta's Travels relating to the Máldives and Ceylon (French edition, Paris, 1879).

(*b*) "Customs and Ceremonies connected with Pádi Cultivation."

Decided to convene a General Meeting for the 15th proximo.

4.—At the suggestion of the Chairman, *decided* to sanction a grant of Rs. 100 to W. Guṇatilaka, Esq., of Kandy, towards the expense of printing a new edition of Pâṇini's Sutras.

General Meeting.

February 15, 1882.

Present:

C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

T. Berwick, Esq.
J. Capper, Esq.
Major A. Ewing.
W. Ferguson, Esq.
G. C. Hill, Esq.
W. K. James, Esq.
Rev. E. F. Miller, M.A.
E. F. Perera, Esq.
Hon. P. Ráma-Náthan.
J. G. Wardrop, Esq., Hon. Treasurer.
H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Hon. Secy.

1.—Minutes of the last Meeting (Annual) were read and confirmed.

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2.—The following gentlemen were duly balloted for and elected Members :—

The Right Rev. R. Copleston, D.D., Lord Bishop of Colombo.

W. Blair, Esq.	P. Freüdenberg, Esq.
P. W. Conolly, Esq., C.C.S.	W. G. Haines, Esq., C.C.S.

3.—A list of Books added to the Society's Library since the Annual Meeting was laid on the table.

4.—Read the following Papers :—

i.—An Abstract by the Chairman of Professor Virchow's Monograph on the Vẹddás of Ceylon. (*Ueber die Weddas von Ceylon und ihre Beziehungen zu den Nachbarstämmen.*)

ii.—An Abstract by the Chairman of Professor M. Künté's Paper on "Nirváṇa," written for the Society's Journal.

iii.—Extracts from Mr. Albert Gray's translation of the Máldive portion of Ibn Batúta's Travels (*Voyages d' Ibn Batoutah*, Tome IV., pp. 110–185), by the Honorary Secretary.

iv.—"Customs and Ceremonies connected with Pádi Cultivation," by H. C. P. Bell, Honorary Secretary.

5.—Upon the proposition of the President, it was unanimously carried that Mr. Albert Gray be invited to become an Honorary Member of the Society.

6.—Proceedings closed with votes of thanks to the Secretary for his Paper, and to the Chairman.

The President read an abstract of a Monograph by Professor Virchow on "The Vẹddás of Ceylon," based on an examination of 23 reputed Vẹddá skulls. He believes they are a people of unmixed blood, whilst the Siṇhalese are decidedly a mixed race. This opinion, however, is not supported by the researches of Mahá Mudaliyár De Soysa, who believes them to be the descendants of a son and daughter of Vijayá by a Yakkhá princess.

After some general conversation on the subject, it was decided to get the Professor's valuable pamphlet translated into English at home for the benefit of Oriental scholars unacquainted with German.

The Chairman followed this up by an abstract of a Paper on "Nirwáṇa," by Professor Künté, which will be printed in the Journal of the year *in extenso.*

The Honorary Secretary, Mr. H. C. P. Bell, read extracts from Mr. A. Gray's translation of a portion of Ibn Batúta's Travels relating to the Máldives (French edition of M. M. Defrémery and Sanguinetti), the quaint descriptions in which agreed in the main with the Secretary's observations when at those Islands.

Mr. Bell then read an interesting Paper on "Customs and Ceremonies connected with Pádi Cultivation." The Paper entered into details showing that at every step taken in the cultivation of their pádi

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fields, the villagers sought the advice and aid of soothsayers in order to secure a lucky day for their proceedings. This is done before the cultivator attempts to commence ploughing or treading up the ground. The same is observed in regard to the construction of dams; and before any attempt at sowing seed can be made, ceremonies are gone through in conformity with ancient customs as prescribed by the soothsayers.

Mr. Bell gave some specimens of the songs sung by the village cultivators whilst bailing the water out of the fields, as well as during reaping, together with a few strange *kem*, or charms, used to keep off flies, &c., from the ripe ears.

The after-proceedings of levelling the ground, and preparing it for the reception of seed, were all minutely described, showing as much attention to ceremonial as at any other stage of affairs.

If the crop promises to be a very good one, a ceremony is performed with a view of securing protection from the evil eye and evil mouth. In the centre of the field small stands are made, decorated with flowers and young cocoanut leaves. Here at night the *Kaṭṭáḍiyá*, dressed up fantastically, dances a sort of devil dance in the centre of the platform, lights being kept burning at the corners until morning.

There are also certain observances at the time of threshing the corn. Before the sheaves can be removed from the stacks, where they were placed from the field, five or seven mats are spread on the ground and three circles and two straight lines (with four of their agricultural implements) are drawn with ashes: in the centre are placed sea-shells, a little cow-dung with a little silver, copper, brass, iron, and ashes. This being done, some one believed to be lucky places a sheaf of corn on his head, walks up to the spot, and bows to the four corners; other men then bring in the ear, and spread it on the mats, and bullocks are brought in to begin the work.

The removal of the threshed corn is also a matter of ceremony. When all the grain is free from straw, the chief villager goes to the centre of the pádi, whilst the others heap it up around him as high as his knees. When this is done the heap is covered with mats, and the man in the centre, after certain forms, jumps down backwards. Then other observances follow prescribed by long custom.

All the pádi is then removed home. Before any of it is taken for use one or two handfuls are again separated. This, with some other pádi, is pounded by the women at night, and part of it is boiled, and cakes made with the rest. Before they begin this, the women bathe and put on clean clothes, and it is necessary that none of it should be tasted during the preparation. The neighbours are invited in the morning to enjoy this *Deviyánné dánaya*, and the *Kapurála*, lay priest of the *Dévála*, is called in. All the people assembled sit down on mats spread on the compound, and the rice and vegetable curries, cakes and plantains, being served them on plantain leaves, the Kapurála sings certain songs to bring prosperity on the cultivator. Meanwhile a table is prepared inside the house with everything cooked for the occasion. When the songs are over, he tastes everything, and sprinkles water on the people and their rice, which is the

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signal for them to commence eating.—(*Ceylon Observer*, February 16th, 1882.)

The information contained in Mr. Bell's very interesting paper, read to the Asiatic Society, on ceremonies amongst the Siŋhalese in connection with pádi cultivation, conveys a lesson which should be well considered in reference to agricultural improvements amongst people who have been stigmatised as indolent and apathetic in the extreme.

We shall not be wrong if we say that the Siŋhalese people are fully as much imbued with feelings of superstition as any other race, notwithstanding that Buddhism is in its very nature opposed to anything approaching superstitious practices.

Perhaps in no other occupation are superstitious observances so frequently and so thoroughly observed as in agriculture. This may be owing to frequent unfavourable seasons and failure of crops, which have led native cultivators to trust so much to charms and observances in the hope of warding off further disaster. From the earliest commencement of the cultivator's toils, the preparation of the ground to the garnering of the corn, the soothsayer is consulted, and his instructions devoutly followed by the ignorant villagers. A lucky day must be sought for turning the first sod of the saturated ground, and for sprinkling the first sowing of the season. In the hope of warding off pests and insects from the growing cornfield, rules have to be observed, and ceremonies performed; and the same with every operation connected with harvesting.

But Mr. Bell is careful to tell us that these childish observances are fast dying out amongst all but the most ignorant. He says most of these absurd and superstitious customs and usages, though still observed by some old cultivators, are little regarded by their juniors, and are but slowly but surely dying out. These men are unable to account for the performance of these ceremonies, and he adds that the majority of cultivators attribute the failure of crops in their villages during the past few years to the non-observance and gradual decline of faith in these ceremonies.

If, as believed by Mr. Bell, these absurd practices are fast dying out, there may be some prospect of inducing cultivators to turn their attention to improved modes of agriculture, and so in time bettering their condition. It is within the memory of living men that in many parts of the United Kingdom superstitions as absurd as any described in this paper prevailed amongst the rural population, especially in remote districts, and we know that it is only within the last twenty years that any real progress has been made in English agriculture, Scotland, to its credit, having set the example. We are therefore surely justified in hoping that as superstition dies out in this country, improvements in agriculture may take their place.—(*Ceylon Times*, 17th February, 1882. "*Superstition or Progress.*")

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Archæological Survey of Western India: Report of the first season's operations in the Belgâm and Kaladgi Districts, 1874, by James Burgess, M.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., London, 1875.

Archæological Survey of India: Report on the Antiquities of Kâthiâwâd and Kachh, 1874-5, by James Burgess, M.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., London, 1876.

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Ceylon Gazetteer, by S. Casi Chetty, Ceylon, 1834.

Coins of the Jews (Numismata Orientalia), by F. W. Madden, M.R.A.S., London, 1881.

Common Prayer (Telugu), Bellary, 1838.

Grammar of the Arabic Language, by E. H. Palmer, M.A., London, 1874.

Grammar of the three principal Oriental Languages, Hindoostani, Persian and Arabic, by William Price, London, 1823.

Grammar of the Hindústání Tongue, by D. Forbes, London, 1844.

Grammar of the Malayálim Language, by Rev. Joseph Peet, Cottayam, 1841.

Grammar of the Persian Language, by D. Forbes, M.A., London, 1844.

Grammar of the Telugu Language, by Maddâḷi Lakshmi Narasayya, Madras, 1870.

Head dresses exhibited on Ancient Coins, by H. Phillips, Jnr., Philadelphia, 1881.

Indian Antiquary, Vols. 4 to 9, 1875-80, Vol. X., December, 1881, Vol. XI., January and February, 1882.

Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. 50, Part 2, No. 4, 1881, Calcutta, 1881.

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. XIV., Part I., old series.

Journal of the Royal Geographical Society, Vols. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, London 1831—6.

Kala Sankalita, by Lieut.-Colonel J. Warren, Madras, 1825.

Kayimandorakaḍa Ginna (Siŋhalese), 1882, Colombo.

Manual of Hindú Pantheism, by Major G. A. Jacob, London, 1881.

Mastery Series (Hebrew), by T. Prendergast, London, 1879.

Nâmamâlâ (Páli Grammar), by Subhúti Terunnánse, Ceylon, 1876.

Old Time Superstitions, by H. Philips.

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Oriental Historical Manuscripts, Vol. I., by W. Taylor, Madras, 1835.
Páli Text of Kachchayano's Grammar, with English Annotations, by F. Mason, D.D., New York, 1870.
Phœnician Inscriptions, Part I., by D. J. Heath, London, 1873.
Practical Grammar of the Sanskṛit Language, by T. Benfey, London, 1868.
Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Parts I. to III., Philadelphia, 1880.
Proceedings of the Asiatic Society, Bengal, No. IX., Nov. 1881, Calcutta, 1881.
Quatrains of Omar Khayyám, (Trübner's Oriental Series), by E. H. Whinfield, M.A., London, 1882.
Religions of India, (Trübner's Oriental Series), by A. Barth, London, 1882.
Sîgiri, the Lion Rock, Ceylon (Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland), by T. W. Rhys Davids, London, 1874.
Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, Vol. IX., Part III., Yokohama, 1881.
Travels in Ceylon and Continental India, by Dr. W. Hoffmeister, Edinburgh, 1848.
Tropical Agriculturist, Vol. I., Nos. 8 and 9, January and February, 1882. Colombo, 1882.
Voyage to the East Indies, by J. P. Stavorinus, 3 Volumes.
Wesleyan Mission to Ceylon and India, by W. M. Haward, London, 1823.

Committee Meeting.

September 4, 1882.

Present:

C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

J. Capper, Esq. | W. Ferguson, Esq.
A. C. Dixon, Esq. | Hon. P. Ráma-Náthan.

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

1.—Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of January 25th.

2.—The Hon. Secretary stated that for want of suitable Papers it had been considered undesirable to convene a General Meeting since February, but that the following Papers were now available:—

i.—"*Buddha's Sermon on Omens,*" by L. De Zoysa, Mahá Mudaliyár.

ii.—"*Descriptive List of ornaments worn by the Moorish Women in Ceylon,*" by A. T. Shams-ud-dín;

and that the following had been promised:—

iii.—"*Folk Lore in Ceylon,*" by W. Guṇatilaka.

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iv.—"*On the Geological section laid bare at the sinking of the new Keḷaṇi bridge*," by A. C. Dixon.

Decided to call a General Meeting for the 14th instant.

3.—The Hon. Secretary stated that Journal Vol. VII., Pt. II., No. 24, 1881, which the Government Printing Office had been unable to issue earlier owing to continuous heavy pressure of work, would, he hoped, be ready for distribution very shortly, and that as the Government Printer had finally declared his inability to issue the Society's Transactions punctually, he (Hon. Secretary) had entrusted the Journal for the current year to the "Times of Ceylon" Press.

4.—The Hon. Secretary announced that the new Catalogue would also be out by the end of the month, and laid on the table copy of Part I., pp. 1—52.

5.—Submitted application from Mr. A. Haly, the Director of the Museum, to have his essay "On the Construction of Zoological Tables" published by the Society. *Deferred.*

General Meeting.

September 14, 1882.

Present:

The Hon. J. Douglas, C.M.G., Vice-Patron, in the Chair.

C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G.	A. M. Ferguson, Esq., Jun.
A. Bailey, Esq.	W. Ferguson, Esq., F.L.S.
J. Capper, Esq.	Hon. P. Ráma-Náthan.
J. Carbery, Esq., M.B.C.M.	W. P. Raṇasiṇha, Esq.
J. G. Dean, Esq., Hon. Tr.	W. G. Rockwood, Esq., M.D.
A. M. Ferguson, Esq., C.M.G.	H. VanCuylenburg, Esq.

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

1.—Read and confirmed Minutes of last General Meeting.

2.—The following Members were elected:—

Rev. C. Boyd, M.A.	F. Lewis, Esq.
C. Edmonds, Esq., C.C.S.	T. H. Lloyd, Esq.
E. Elliot, Esq., C.C.S.	H. L. Moysey, Esq., C.C.S.
G. M. Fowler, Esq., C.C.S.	Rev. H. Newton, M.A.
E. R. Guṇaratna, Atapattu Mudaliyár.	John Perera, Mudaliyár.
	J. H. De Saram, Esq., C.C.S.

H. Wace, Esq., C.C.S.

The Hon. J. F. Dickson, M.A., C.C.S., and W. Guṇatilaka, Esq., were re-admitted members.

3.—The Hon. Secretary laid on the table a list of books received since last meeting.

(i.) The Hon. Secretary read a Paper, entitled "*Buddha's Sermon on Omens*," by L. De Zoysa, Mahá Mudaliyár.

A short discussion followed, in the course of which Mr. Bruce remarked that it appeared to him the best rendering to bring out the exact meaning of the words "*etaṉ mangalaṉ uttamaṉ*" would be "these are the best things to bring luck;" that this seemed to him to have a very appropriate meaning, more appropriate than the word "omen."

In reply to a remark from the Chairman, Mr. Bruce said that undoubtedly the general meaning given to the words by the Mahá Mudaliyár was right, but perhaps not sufficiently comprehensive.

At this stage of the proceedings the Lieutenant-Governor left, and Mr. Bruce took the Chair.

(ii.) The Hon. Secretary read a Paper on "*Folk Lore in Ceylon,*" W. Guṇatilaka, Esq.

5.—The Meeting concluded with the usual vote of thanks to the Chair.

A Paper, "*Buddha's Sermon on Omens,*" by L. De Zoysa, Mahá Mudaliyár, was first read. It was in reality, an essay in disproof of the theory that Buddha's teaching inculcated caste and superstition; and quotations were given in support of this from the Buddhist Scriptures. Mr. De Zoysa was careful to emphasize the declaration with which his paper commenced, to the effect that the founder of Buddhism repudiated caste and superstition both in theory and practice; at the same time he admitted that in a country like Ceylon in which Hindúism had prevailed before the introduction of Buddhism, caste and superstition still exist, although in a modified form.

At the conclusion of the Paper (which was somewhat technical in its contents), Mr. Bruce alluded to the particular words quoted by the author as being Sanskrit. He had been in correspondence with Mr. De Zoysa, but had not as yet had the reply he had hoped for. The word on which so much stress was laid appeared to signify anything done to procure or invoke a blessing or success; it was even applicable to a portion of the marriage ceremony.

The reading of Mr. Guṇatilaka's paper on "*Folk Lore in Ceylon*" was then proceeded with, and was listened to with the interest the subject claimed. The author alluded to this field of research as one almost entirely neglected, but which offered the greatest inducements for enquiry and research. A complete collection would of course be a work of time, but this work would be materially aided if Members who came across any stories illustrative of the subject would publish them from time to time in the Society's Journal. His own contribution in the present instance was but the commencement of a work in which he trusted others would join. He reminded his readers that Mr. Steele, in his translation of the Kusa Játaka, had given as an appendix a few Siṇhalese stories to which he added some remarks on the large collection of household stories that might be made in Ceylon.

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The author of the Paper related one story only, but it was of sufficient interest to render his Paper attractive, and will no doubt be read by very many with great enjoyment. It was a story told in illustration of the strong powers held over a woman by avarice and cunning, and relates to the native custom of what is known amongst them as "giving and taking *sil*" at the hands of the Buddhist priesthood.

Mr. Ráma-Náthan believed that many of the household tales current in Ceylon partook freely of Tamil characteristics; indeed, he remembered a story similar to that just read to them, in which all the characters were Hindús.

Mr. James mentioned as a fact, that Siṇhalese versions of many of the Western fairy tales and legends were being printed at one or two native presses, and he believed there was a very active demand for all such works, as well as for purely Siṇhalese stories.—(*Times of Ceylon*, September 15th, 1882.)

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Ansflug nach dem Adamspik auf Ceylon, by Franenfeld, Wien, 1859.

Arabian Poetry for English Readers, by W. A. Clouston, Glasgow, 1881.

Archæological Notes on Ancient Sculpturings on rocks in Kumaon, India, by J. H. Rivett Carnac, B.C.S., Calcutta, 1879.

Buddha and early Buddhism, by A. Lillie, London, 1881.

Buddha and Jaina Religions, Historical Researches on the origin and principles of the, Bombay, 1847.

Buddhist Catechism, by H. S. Olcott, Colombo, 1881.

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Do.	,,	142, 54, 221	... do.	1868.
Do.	,,	174	... do.	1869.
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Do. „ 310, 11, 15, 19, 20, 26, & 27 ... do. 1875.
Do. „ 234, 35, 36, 331, 32, 33, 341, 44, 52, 53, 54 ... do. 1876.
Do. „ 238, 39, 40, 360, 62, 63, 67, 68, 72, 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 86, 88 ... do. 1877.
Do. „ 391, 96, 97, 400, 401, 3, 6, 7, 8, 410, 11, 12 ... do. 1878.
Do. Index to Vol. I. ... do. „
Do. Nos. 241, 358, 59, 417, 18, 419, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 429, 30, 31, 32 ... do. 1879.
Do. „ 242, 392, 93, 434, 35, 36, 437, 38, 39, 42, 44, 45, 447, 49, 450 ... do. 1880.
Do. „ 243, 394, 95, 452, 54, 55, 456, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 463, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 470, 71 ... do. 1881.
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Catalogue of Works on Natural History, Physics, &c., by Bernard Quaritch, London, 1881.

Ceilon Reis naar het Land der Bayaderen, 3 Vols., by L. Jacolliot, Haarlem, 1876–7.

Chronological Tables for Southern India, from the 6th Century A.D., by R. Sewell, C.S., Madras, 1881.

D'Heidelberghse Catechismus Nederduytsen Cingalees.

Dialogues in Canarese, with an English translation by R. G. Hodson, Bangalore, 1865.

Dictionary, Canarese and English, by Rev. Reeve, Bangalore, 1858.

Eeene Overland reis uit Indie naar Nederland in 1674–75.

Faith of Islam, by Rev. E. Sell, London, 1880.

Forest Administration in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, by D. Brandis, F.R.S., C.I.E., Calcutta, 1882.

Grammar of the Bengalee Language, by W. Carey, D.D., 1818.

Do. Chinese Colloquial Language, by J. Edkins, B.A., Shanghai, 1857.

Grammar of the Goojratee Language, by D. Forbes, Bombay, 1829.

Het Heylige Evangelium Ouzes Heeren en Zaligmakers Jesu Christi, Colombo, 1741.

Indian Timber, Manual of, by Gamble, Calcutta, 1881.

Institutes of Hindú Law, by G. C. Haughton, M.A., F.R.S., &c., London, 1825.

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Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Aug. and Nov., 1881, Vol. 11, Nos. 1 and 2, London, 1881.
Do. February, 1882, Vol. 11, No. 3. London, 1882.
Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Extra Number to Part 1 for 1880, Calcutta, 1880.
Do. do. do. Vol. 49, Part 1, Calcutta, 1880.
Journal Asiatique, Septieme Série, Tome 8, Nos. 2 and 4, Paris, 1876.

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Journal of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. 16, Part I., Shanghai, 1882.
Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, No. 8, Singapore, 1882.

Kavikanta Bhásaya (Siŋhalese).
Kort Begryp Der Christelyke Religie, Colombo, 1754.

Lepidoptera of Ceylon, Part 3, (2 copies) by F. Moore, F.Z.S., London, 1881.
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Lapidarium Zeylanicum, by L. Ludovici, Colombo, 1877.

Mastery Series (Spanish), by T. Prendergast, London, 1882.
Milindapañho, by V. Trenckner, London, 1880.
Military Expedition to Candy in the year 1840, by Major Johnston, Dublin, 1854.
Mind of Mencius, by Faber (Trübner's Oriental Series), London, 1882.
Miscellaneous Translations from Oriental Languages, Vols. 1 and 2, London, 1831-34.

Naauwkeurige Beschryvinge van Malabar en Choromandel, by D. P. Baldæus, Amsterdam, 1672.
Notulen van de Algemeene en Bestuurs-vergaderingen van Het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen, Deel 19, 1881, Nos. 2 to 4, Batavia, 1881-82.

Oriental Biographical Dictionary, by T. W. Beale, Calcutta, 1881.

Pátimokkha, translated by J. F. Dickson, M.A., London, 1875.
Phrase Book or Idiomatical Exercises in English and Canarese, Bangalore, 1857.
Pilgrimage to El-Medinah and Meccah, by R. F. Burton, 3 Vols. London, 1855-56.

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Pre-historic Remains in Central India, by J. H. Rivett Carnac, B.C.S., Calcutta, 1879.
Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, No. 10, December, 1881. Calcutta, 1881.
Do. do. Nos. 1 & 2, January and February, 1882. Calcutta, 1882.
Reise nach Ceylon, by Wolf, Berlin, 1782.
Report of the Council of the North-China Branch of Royal Asiatic Society for 1881.
Report of the Third International Geographical Congress, by Kreitner, Venice, 1881.
Rough Notes on the Snake Symbol in India, by J. H. Rivett Carnac, B.C.S., Calcutta, 1879.
Sanskṛit Manual, Part 1, by Prof. Monier Williams, London, 1862.
Scenery and Reminiscences of Ceylon, by J. Deschamps, London, 1845.
Singaleesch Gebeede Boek, Colombo, 1737.
Do. Belydenis Boek, do. 1738.
Tamiḷ Proverbs with English Translation, by Rev. Percival, Madras, 1874.
The Thousand and One Nights, 3 Vols., by E. W. Lane, London, 1877.
Thesaurus Zeylanicus, by Burmanni, Amsterdam, 1737.
Tsuni, ǁ Goam, The Supreme Being of the Khoi-Khoi, by T. Hahn, (Trübner's Oriental Series), London, 1881.
Verhandelingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap, Deel 41 and 42, Batavia, 1881.
Vinayapiṭakam, translated by Dr. Oldenberg, London, 1882.
Warṇáwali or Siṇhalese First Book, by Karuṇáratna, Colombo, 1882.
Yúsuf and Zulaikha, by R. T. H. Griffith, (Trübner's Oriental Series), London, 1882.

General Meeting.

November 2nd, 1882.

Present:

P. Freüdenberg, Esq., in the Chair.

W. K. James, Esq. | W. P. Raṇasiṇha, Esq.

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

J. M. P. Peries, Mudaliyár, was introduced.

1.—The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

2.—The following gentlemen were duly elected Members:—

Hon. A. Alwis.	N. P. Kásipiḷḷai, Esq.
A. Clark, Esq.	E. T. Noyes, Esq., C.C.S.
J. Grenier, Esq.	J. De Seneviratna, Esq.

J. M. P. Pieries, Mudaliyár, was re-admitted a Member.

3.—List of works received for the Library since last Meeting was laid on the table.

4.—The Hon. Secretary read:—

(*a*) Letter, forwarded by Government, from the Assistant Government Agent, Puttaḷam, on some ruins at Vehera-gala (near 10th mile-post, Anurádhapura road), recently discovered. A ground plan and sketch of the site accompanied the Report.

(*b*) Letter from L. De Zoysa, Mahá-Mudaliyár, in defence of his rendering of the word *Mámini* by "O great man!" in his note on the Vęddás (C. A. S. Journal, Vol. VII., Part II., 1881, No. 24, p. 99.)*

(*c*) "Notes on the Microscopical characteristics of Feathers," by F. Lewis, Esq.

Mr. James then read portions of his Paper on "Siŋhalese Folk-lore."

5.—A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the Meeting to a close.

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* With reference to the Honorary Secretary's footnote on my rendering of the words මාමිනි (*mámini*) 'O great man,' to the effect that Bailey translates 'my gem,' I feel bound to state the reasons which led me to render the words as I have done. I recollect the late Mr. Bailey consulting me on the meaning of the words in question, and my telling him that I was unable to offer a satisfactory explanation. It will also be seen on reference to my translation of one of these songs published in the *Ceylon Observer* of 16th October, 1875, that I left these words untranslated, as I was not in a position then to offer a satisfactory translation. I have stated in my note that "when at Badulla, in 1879, a low-country Siŋhalese man gave me much information regarding the Vęddó." (Journal, Vol. VII., Pt. II., p. 97). On enquiry of this man, he at once and without any hesitation explained that the word *mámini* means 'great man' from *má*, 'great' and *mini*, 'man.' *Mini* in the Vęddá dialect is the word used for *man*. It is evidently derived from the Sanskrit word මනු (*manu*) 'progenitor of mankind,' and මනුෂ (*manusha*) 'man.' Hence the Siŋhalese මිනිහා (*minihá*) මිනිසා (*minisá*) and the Máldivian *míhun* (Siŋhalese, මිනිසුන් ? *minisun*). I may add that in vernacular Siŋhalese the word මිනි (*mini*) is used both as an adjective and a noun—*e.g.*, මිනිඇට (*mini ęta*) means 'human bone,' මිනිවල (*mini wala*) a 'human grave,' මිනිමරණවා (*miní maranawá*) is 'to kill men,' මිනිය (*miniya*) a 'dead human body,' and it is also used for 'a funeral.' I think the words might also be translated 'my (our) man'! but I have thought the rendering I have adopted more appropriate as it tallies with the well-known worship of the ancestors by the Vęddó, who regard the spirits of their dead as both *men* and *gods*.

Kosgoda, 27th September, 1882. L. De Zoyza.

The Hon. Secretary read a letter forwarded to the Society by the Colonial Secretary from the Assistant Government Agent (P. A. Templer, Esq.) at Puttaḷam, on some ruins at a place called *Veheragala*, situated about two miles south of the 10th mile-post on the Anurádhapura road.

These ruins consist for the most part of groups of stone pillars more or less roughly squared. The neighbourhood is so much overgrown with jungle that it is difficult fully to make out their formation, or to conjecture to what period they belong. The oval-shaped building was found on a rocky mound. Its base is constructed of slabs of rock laid upon oblong blocks. The building faces north, on which side there is a flight of stone steps, and its dimensions are 56 feet from N.S., and 78 feet from E. to W.

The letter was accompanied by a sketch of the building, and a ground plan, as well as a copy of an inscription found on a slab near the flight of steps.

Mr. Templer thinks the building could not be intended for a Tope or Dágaba, owing to its oval shape; at any rate, in that case it can never have been completed.

A discussion on the letter followed, in which it was agreed that it would be advisable to have the jungle in the neighbourhood cleared and experimental excavations made. It was also agreed to ask the opinion of Mr. Smither on the subject, and if necessary to refer the inscription to Dr. Müller, the late Government Archæologist.

The Honorary Secretary read a letter from Mahá Mudaliyár De Zoysa, in defence of his rendering of the word *Mámini* by 'O great man!' in his Paper on the Veddás, published in the last Journal of the Society, as opposed to the late Mr. J. Bailey's translation 'my gem.'

A discussion ensued, and the consensus of opinion of those present seemed to be in favour of Mr. Bailey's translation.

The Honorary Secretary then read Mr. F. Lewis's Paper, "*Notes on the Microscopical characteristics of Feathers.*" It was pointed out that there is scope for more research in regard to the form and shape of feathers. A breast feather pulled from a well-known bird will show that in the basal region the quill supports a shaft, which in turn, towards the lower half of the feather, bears a fine thread-like process, say, one-tenth of an inch long, which Mr. Lewis calls the "sub-web shaft." In the upper part of the feather this sub-web shaft is absent. Supposing a web-shaft is removed from the same feather and placed under a miscroscope of some power, the sub-web shaft will exhibit a series of point-like markings of a more or less modified character.

The conclusion the author has arrived at, after examining a large series of Ceylon birds, is that they are modifications of an aboriginal form, his conclusion being derived from the fact that in remote periods of time, it is but fair to suppose, birds required a closer plumage than at present, in order to endure a colder temperature, and to bring about that end a further addition to the sub-web shaft would render most material assistance. By this peculiarity of struc-

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ture, the writer believes we shall be able to trace the relative ages of existing forms of birds.

Mr. Lewis's Paper was illustrated by some neat sketches of feathers.

In the ensuing discussion the Chairman remarked that the modification of feathers on the different parts of the body of a bird was exactly what would be expected looking at the adaptation of means in all nature. Mr. Bell regretted that at present there were no other ornithologists in Ceylon who might have given their opinion on the subject; he had referred the matter to Mr. Staniforth Green, but unfortunately the subject was not in that gentleman's range of study. Mr. W. K. James pointed out that the subject of feathers had already received attention at the hands of some British ornithologists, but that probably Mr. Lewis had had no opportunity of seeing any articles on the subject. It was also to be regretted that he had been unable to examine specimens of feathers of birds from higher latitudes, which would furnish, no doubt, additional evidence for or against his theory; but apart from the theory, the actual observations made by Mr. Lewis would be no doubt of considerable value. The existing forms of feathers were no doubt modifications of an ideal type feather, and could be accounted for by Darwin's theory of natural selection. Mr. Freüdenberg said he would be glad to send the Paper to the Berlin Academy for an opinion as to the signification of Mr. Lewis's experiments. This was unanimously agreed to.

As Mr. W. P. Raṇasiṇha's Paper on "*The connection of Siṇhalese with the Modern A'ryan Vernaculars of India*" was of a character which made it difficult to be read at the meeting, the President of the Society (C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G.,) had kindly prepared the following summary :—" In this Paper Mr. Raṇasiṇha discusses the question whether the Siṇhalese language is to be assigned to the Turanian or to the A'ryan or Indo-Germanic family. The evidence adduced to show that it must be assigned to the latter is drawn from the inflectional and analytical structure of the words ; from the distinction between nouns and verbs ; from the terminational indications of number and case in nouns ; and formation of personal terminations in verbs by abraded pronouns or pronominal types. From a comparison of the numerals as a part of language, which retains its forms with the greatest tenacity, it is that the Siṇhalese has followed, with the remarkable fidelity, the Prákrit language or dialect, which Professor Max Müller takes to be the basis of all A'ryan vernaculars of India. Consistently with the modifications found in the structure of Prákrit forms, the Siṇhalese language avoids the combination of two or more consonants without an intervening vowel ; drops consonants in the middle of words, and avoids hiatus either by coalition of words or the insertion of semi-vowels. These evidences are followed by a comparison of the Siṇhalese names for the members of the body with those of the A'ryan vernaculars of India. Mr. Raṇasiṇha then formulates certain laws, 13 in number, which he finds controlling the modifications of Sanskṛit and Prákrit forms by vowel and consonant changes in Siṇhalese. The Paper closes with a long list of words, in

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which, subject to such modifications, are Páli, Prákrit, Sanskṛit and several of the modern A'ryan vernaculars of India."

Mr. Raṇasiṇha's Paper was looked upon as of the highest interest and value, and it is to be hoped that the Society will have still more results of his scholarship.

The Paper on "*Siṇhalese Folk-lore,*" by Mr. W. K. James, contains some interesting details regarding the social character and habits of the people of this country. There is amongst the Siṇhalese a strong attachment to home and friends, and there are reminiscences dear to him which recall the days of his childhood. It is natural, therefore, that home stories exercise influence on him, and that these are stored up in his memory. In the night, as two or three villagers sit guarding their ripening pádi, it is the recital of these stories which wile away the long hours of watching. Some of the stories related are not very complimentary to the intelligence of the Siṇhalese villager, but nevertheless the folk-lore which has been handed down from generation to generation illustrates the ways and the words of much of the rural population, and in this sense they are full of interest.—(*Times of Ceylon,* November 4th, 1882.)

Additions to Library.

Accessions to Indian Museum, Appendix A., 1881.

Archæological Survey of India, Vols. 13 and 14, by Major-General A. Cunningham, Calcutta, 1882.

Bibliotheca Indica, new series, Nos. 477, 81, Calcutta, 1882.

Catalogue of Mammalia.

Forest Administration in the several Provinces under the Government of India, for 1880–81, Simla, 1882.

Geology of Wisconsin, Vol. 3, 1873–79, (with Atlas), 1880.

History of the Egyptian Religion, London, 1882.

History of Hyder Shah *alias* Hyder Ali Khan Bahadur, or New Memoirs concerning the East Indies, with Historical Notes, by M. M. D. L. T., 1848.

Indian Museum Report, Calcutta, 1881.

International Numismata Orientalia, Vol. 3, Part I., London, 1882.

Journal Asiatique, Septime Serie, Tome 10, No. 3, October, November and December, 1877, Paris.

Journal Asiatique, Septime Serie, Tome 19, No. 3, April, May and June, 1882, Paris, 1882.

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. 51, Part I., No. 2, 1882, Calcutta, 1882.

Le Bouddha et sa Religion, Paris, 1862.

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Notulen van de Algemeene en Bestuurs en Vergaderingen van het Bataviaarch Genootschap van kunsten, &c., Deel 20, No. 1, 1882.

Páli Manuscript written on Papyrus, preserved in the Library of the American Monastery, St. Lazarus, by J. F. Dickson, M.A., Venice, 1880.

Proceedings, Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 for March, April, May and June, 1882, Calcutta, 1882.

Páli Literature, by R. Morris, M.A., LL.D., 1881.

Recherches sur la Geographie Ancienne de Ceylon, by E. Burnouf, 1857.

Reis door het Eiland Ceilon, by Haafner, Amsterdam, 1810.

Sacred Books of the East, Vols. 8, 12, 13, and 16, by Prof. Max Müller, Oxford, 1881–82.

Siŋhalese Works :—

Æsop's Fables, ...	Colombo,	1882.
Antará Warana,	"	1875.
A'dararatna-málaya,	"	1880.
Bambayágaya *alias* Waisyatuvaya,	"	1870.
Bárasakávya,	"	1873.
Buddha-ẹdahilla,	"	—
Buddhism in Thibet,	"	1879.
Chittránga Comedy,	"	1873.
Dinatara Comedy, by Silva,	"	1881.
Dunuwila Haṭane,	"	1866.
History of King Atula.		
History of Princess Rolina and Prince Hersor,	"	1881.
Janadharma Vikásaniya,	"	1876.
Jayamaŋgalya Gáthá,	"	1878.
Kavacha Sangrahaya,	"	1872.
Káliŋga Bódhi Játakaya,	"	1874.
Lókopakáraya,	"	1872.
Lówẹdasaŋgrahaya,	"	1877.
Makhádéwa Játakaya,	"	do.
Minichora Játakaya,	"	1873.
Móḍa Mále,	"	1867.
Nawanámá-waliya,	"	1872.
Nimi Játakaya,	"	1877.
Ová Situmiṇa,	"	1872.
Patiwratá Wádaya,	"	1881.
Pánadure Wádaya,	"	1873.
Pirit Pota,	"	1880.
Publications of Míripẹnne Priest,	"	1867.
Samanalahẹlla,	"	1877.
Saṭpanchasha,	"	1873.
Sidatsangará Liyana Sanne,	"	1876.
Siwraluhaṭanaya,	"	1871.
Sulambáwati Comedy,	"	1874.

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Siŋhalese Works—*contd.*:—

Telpátra Játakaya,	... Colombo,	1881.
Tunsaraṇaya,	„	1882.
Wessantara Comedy,	„	1873.
Wetalankatáwa,	„	1872.
Weda Haṭane,	„	1870.
Wessantara Játakaya,	„	1876.
Wìyóga Málaya,	„	1867.
Warṇarítiya, with Siŋhalese Grammar,	„	1872.
Wadurusangaráwa *alias* Wasúrisaŋgrahaya,	„	1872.
Wandapawkatáwa and Daruṇelawilla,	„	1879.
Yannartha Dípani,	„	1881.

Yamakaprâti háriya and Saddharma Saŋgrahaya, Colombo, 1876.

Smithsonian Report, 1880.

Sounds and their Relations, by Bell, London, 1882.

Tabel van Oud-en Nieuw Indische Alphabatten, by K. Holle, 1882.

Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, Vol. 10, Part I., Yokohama, 1882.

Tropical Agriculturist,	Vol. 1, No. 31,	Colombo,	1882.
Do.	Vol. 2, Nos. 1—3	„	1882.

Verhandlungen des Vereins für Meturwitsenschafftlishe Unterhaltung zu Hamburg, 1877, Hamburg, 1879.

Committee Meeting.

December 15, 1882.

Present:

W. Ferguson, Esq. | J. Capper, Esq.
H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

1.—Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed.

2.—*Decided* to convene the Annual Meeting on the 22nd instant for the reception of Committee's Annual Report and election of Office Bearers for the ensuing year.

3.—Read letter from C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G., resigning the Presidentship of the Society on his departure for Mauritius.

Resolved.—That the Hon. Secretary be directed to send a suitable reply, expressing the Committee's great regret at losing Mr. Bruce from the Society and their deep acknowledgment of his services as President.

Further Resolved.—That the letter of resignation be read at the Annual Meeting.

4.—Discussed certain proposed alterations to the rules of the Society and decided on amendments to be submitted to Annual Meeting for sanction.

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5.—Proceeded to nominate Office Bearers for 1883. *Decided* to invite the Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft to accept the Presidentship, and G. Wall, Esq., F.C.S., and the Hon. J. F. Dickson, M.A., C.C.S., to become Vice-Presidents.

Committee.

T. Berwick, Esq.	W. Ferguson, Esq., F.L.S.
W. Blair, Esq.	P. Freüdenberg, Esq.
J. Capper, Esq.	Rev. E. F. Miller, M.A.
J. B. Cull, Esq.	J. L. Vanderstraaten, Esq., M.D.
Major A. Ewing.	

Hon. Treasurer, J. G. Dean, Esq.

Hon. Secretary, H. C. P. Bell, Esq.

6.—The Hon. Secretary stated that the following Papers had been sent in, and would be circulated among the Reading Committee in due course:—

i.—"*Ceylon Gypsies*," by J. P. Lewis, Esq., C.C.S.
ii.—"*Notes on Sinhalese Inscriptions*," by Dr. E. Müller.
iii.—"*Ornithological Notes from the Bogawantaláwa District*," by F. Lewis, Esq.
iv.—"*Buddhist Meetings*," by the Hon. J. F. Dickson, M.A., C.C.S.

ANNUAL MEETING.

December 22, 1882.

Present:

The Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft, Vice-President, in the Chair.

W. Blair, Esq.	T. H. Lloyd, Esq.
J. Capper, Esq.	J. M. Peries, Mudaliyár
W. Ferguson, Esq.	J. H. de Saram. Esq.
P. Freüdenberg, Esq.	G. Wall, Esq., Vice-President.
W. K. James, Esq.	

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Honorary Secretary.

1.—Read and confirmed Minutes of General Meeting held on November 2nd.

2.—The Secretary drew attention to the rules of the Society. He said some suggestions for the amendment of the rules had been received, but he thought it would be better to let the matter lie over till the next annual General Meeting. There were two rules in particular which seemed to require revision. The first related to the Committee. The Committee, as at present constituted, consisted of *nine* members. The suggestion was to alter the wording of the rule so as to make it read "not less than nine members." The second rule was with reference to the Papers read before the Society. The

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existing rule is that Papers should be sent in to the Secretary "at least a *week* before the meeting at which they are to be read is held." It had been found that a week was not sufficient to allow of the Papers being circulated among the members of the Reading Committee and properly digested by them. It was therefore proposed to go back to the former rule and alter "week" to "fortnight," or, better still, "three weeks." He had compared the existing rules with those in force twenty years ago, and he found they were substantially the same. A complete revision seemed desirable.

Mr. Wall suggested that, if any particular rules were found to be inconvenient, they might be properly amended at once, leaving a general revision of the rules for the next Annual Meeting.

Some discussion ensued on the two rules, and it was eventually *decided* to leave the rules as regards the Committee intact, but to alter the rules as regards the time by which Papers should be sent in to the Secretary to "a fortnight."

3.—The Secretary read the following letter from Mr. Bruce, conveying his resignation as President of the Society :—

Colombo, 13th December.

DEAR SIR,—I AM very sorry that my departure from Ceylon has been hurried by my having to catch the next Mauritius steamer from Aden, that I have had no opportunity of taking formal leave of the Asiatic Society. My appointment as Colonial Secretary of Mauritius makes it necessary for me to resign the office of President of the Society. In doing so, I desire to express to the Society my sense of the great distinction they conferred upon me by electing me to the post. I shall always retain a very grateful sense of the good-will the Society has shown me and an agreeable recollection of our work together. * * I trust that the Society will long continue to flourish, and that every year will find in the pages of the Transactions and Journals contributions of a value equal to the last few years. With many friendly recollections and all good-wishes,

Believe me, &c.,

H. C. P. BELL, Esq., Hon. Sec. CHAS. BRUCE.

The Secretary said that it was his duty to announce that the only remaining Vice-President, Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft, had consented to accept the office of President, and he felt sure Mr. Ravenscroft's election would be unanimously approved.

Mr. J. H. De Saram proposed and Mr. T. H. Lloyd seconded that the following gentlemen be elected Office Bearers for the ensuing year :—

[His Excellency the Governor is the *Patron*, and the Hon. J. Douglas, C.M.G., *Vice-Patron*.]

President.—Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft.

Vice-Presidents.—Hon. J. F. Dickson, M.A., C.C.S., and Geo. Wall, Esq., F.C.S.

Treasurer.—J. G. Dean, Esq.

Secretary.—H. C. P. Bell, Esq., C.C.S.

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The following gentlemen were invited to join the *Committee*:— T. Berwick, Esq.; W. Blair, Esq.; J. Capper, Esq.; J. B. Cull, Esq., M.A.; Major Ewing; W. Ferguson, Esq., F.L.S.; P. Freüdenberg, Esq.; Rev. E. F. Miller, M.A.; and J. L. Vanderstraaten, Esq., M.D.

The motion was carried *nem. con.*

Hon. W. H. Ravenscroft rose and thanked the members for electing him President. He said: "Gentlemen,—In accepting the honor, which I have much pleasure in doing now, of President of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, I feel that it is but right and fitting that I should do so with very great diffidence. I feel that there are many others that are far more able to fill the position, which is one of no small responsibility, and which requires an amount of special knowledge that is possessed by many other members of the Society in a far greater degree than myself. I trust, however, with the assistance of our able and energetic Secretary, who is thoroughly conversant with the matters and subjects which come within the scope of this most valuable Association, that the records of the coming year will show that much good and useful work has been done, and that at its close we may all feel we have gained much valuable knowledge. In conclusion, I would advert to the great loss we have sustained in the departure of our late President, Mr. Bruce, who was possessed to a remarkable degree of the talents and special knowledge required to further the interests of the Royal Asiatic Society. While deploring our loss, I am sure you will all join me in cordially congratulating Mr. Bruce upon the well-merited advancement (hear, hear) he has received, and the sincere hope that further promotion will be his lot ere long." (Applause.)

A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Bruce for his services as President was carried with acclamation.

5.—The Secretary laid on the table the usual financial statement prepared by the Honorary Treasurer, showing a balance to the good of Rs. 141·08.

6.—The Secretary then read the Annual Report of the Committee on the past year, as follows:—

Report.

"The Society has reason to be satisfied with the work of the past year. The signs of returning life put forth in 1881 have continued to develope since, and afford ground for the belief that the Society has once more passed out of a critical stage, and is in a fair way to regain its former vigour. It is additionally encouraging to feel assured by the friendly congratulations of kindred bodies in other parts of the world that the well-being of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society is a matter of cordial interest far outside this Island.

"Your Central Committee has endeavoured, as far as practicable in Colombo, to further the Society's interests, but would take this opportunity of inviting the more active co-operation of members in general, and particularly of out-station members. There is need for this appeal. An institution of this nature must rely for support

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almost entirely on itself, and cannot look for permanent success unless individual members will bear a share in the work as a whole. That the necessity for this inter-dependence between the trunk—so to speak—and its limbs is not sufficiently recognized, the Committee have to notice with regret. Non-resident members—and a large proportion come under this category—have, speaking generally, better means of prosecuting the literary and scientific studies within the Society's scope. The field of research is for them necessarily wider and more varied. Detailed accounts of outlying districts—of the pursuits, peculiar superstitions, and folklore of the natives, which would rightly find no place in condensed official Administration Reports—should furnish material for a series of Papers eminently suitable for our Journal. What in unpretentious fashion a Lewis could perform for Saffragam * or a Brodie for Chilaw† might well be followed by many an outstation Government officer, or private estate owner, desirous of throwing all possible light on the condition of the people themselves and the commercial prospects of particular districts.

"Many branches of inquiry naturally suggest themselves. Such are specified in the preamble to our Rules and Regulations. Thus the able investigations of Drs. Goldschmidt and Müller in recent years have given prominence to the subject of archæology. This is one of the principal objects contemplated by the Society, and well worthy the assiduous study of its members. Further inquiries conducted systematically are likely to yield discoveries of no less moment. A recent report by Mr. P. A. Templer, C.C.S., received through Government, on the hitherto unknown ruins at Veheragala, between Puttaḷam and Anurádhapura, is a case in point.

"*Members.*—During the year, 22 new members were elected, and 3 gentlemen, formerly members, re-admitted to the Society. By death or other causes, we have lost 7 members. There are at present 10 life-members (among whom the Lord Bishop of Colombo has recently been enrolled), four honorary members, and 111 ordinary members, or a total numerical strength of 125, as compared with 109 in 1881, and 72 in 1880. This steady increase is another proof that the Society is growing in favour.

"*Meetings.*—Three general meetings have been held; the first in February and one each in September and November. As pointed out in the last year's Report, much of the success of such a Society as this depends upon frequent and regular meetings, and the Committee regret that an interval of seven months should have elapsed between the first and second meeting. This was partly due to the great difficulty of convening meetings in Colombo during the hot season, and partly, it must be confessed, to the apathy of the members themselves in not keeping the Hon. Secretary supplied with a sufficiency of Papers.

"*Papers.*—This apathy has, however, been condoned during the last few months. In response to a special call by the Honorary

* C. A. S. Journ., 1849. † C. A. S. Journ., 1853.

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Secretary, several Papers of considerable interest were sent in and read at the meetings of September and November. Others since received will shortly be circulated among the Reading Committee in anticipation of a meeting early next year, whilst more have been definitely promised. The following Papers were read at general meetings during the year :—

1.—Abstract of Professor Virchow's Monograph on the Veḍḍás of Ceylon. *Über die Weddas von Ceilon und ihre Baziehungen zu den Nachbarstämmen*, by the President, C. Bruce, Esq., C.M.G.

2.—Abstract of a paper on "Nirwáṇa," by Professor M. Küntê, also by the President.

3.—Extracts from Mr. Albert Gray's translation from the French of the Máldive portion of Ibn Batúta's Travels (*Voyages d'Ibn Batoutâh*, Tome, 4e 110—185, Paris, 1879.)

4.—"Ceremonies and Customs connected with Pádi Cultivation," by H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Honorary Secretary.

5.—"Buddha's Sermon on Omens," by L. de Zoyza, Mahá Mudaliyár.

6.—"Folk-lore in Ceylon," by Mr. W. Guṇatilaka.

7.—"Notes on the Microscopical Characteristics of Feathers," by F. Lewis.

8.—Abstract of Mr. W. P. Raṇasiṇha's Paper on "Siṇhalese as compared with the modern A'ryan Vernaculars of India," by the President.

9.—"Siṇhalese Folklore," by W. K. James.

"All these Papers will appear in the Journal for the year.

"The outlook for 1883 is no less satisfactory. Mr. Raṇasiṇha has promised to follow up his valuable contribution to Siṇhalese philology by a further Paper on the same subject.

"Dr. E. Müller has sent out for the Society "Notes on Siṇhalese Inscriptions" in continuation of those published by the late Dr. Goldschmidt and himself in our Journals of 1879 and 1880 (Nos. 20 and 21.)

Louis De Zoysa, Mahá Mudaliyár, has in hand a short Paper enunciating Buddha's view of caste.

"Mr. F. Lewis is turning his ornithological studies to some purpose and has favoured the Committee with some "Ornithological Notes from the Bogawantaláwa district." There is perhaps too prevalent an opinion that Captain Legge has quite exhausted the subject of Ceylon Birds, and it is to be hoped that the example set by Mr. Lewis will bring out similar workers in other districts.

"Mr. J. P. Lewis, C.C.S., has prepared an account of the little known "Ceylon Gypsies"—a class to which the snake charmers and jugglers who haunt the precints of our hotels would seem to belong.

"The Hon. J. F. Dickson, M.A., C.C.S., has promised a Paper on "Buddhist Meetings." Mr. A. C. Dixon has one nearly ready on "The Geological Section of the new Kẹlaṇi Bridge," which is likely

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to bear curiously on the legendary history of Laṅká. In addition to these, some of the Papers alluded to in the President's address last year will probably see the light in the course of 1883.

"*Publications.*—The Society's Transactions have not appeared as regularly as could be wished. This is attributable to the pressure of work in the Government Printing Office, and has been unavoidable. The Committee has therefore reluctantly decided to face the cost of printing at other presses, and has entrusted the Journal for 1882 to the "Times of Ceylon" Press. The Government Printing Office was, however, able to turn out, in its usual excellent style, the "Proceedings, 1881," and "Journal No. 24, 1881, Pt. II.", besides a reprint of "Journal Vol. VI., No. 1, 1853" (now classed as Vol. II., No. 6), and may possibly be able to help us from time to time.

"Upon the recommendation of the President, a special grant of Rs. 100 was made to Mr. W. Guṇatilaka, of Kandy, towards his new edition of Páṇini's Sutras. A portion of the work (Vol. I., pp. 1—49), printed in Bombay, has been issued in connection with the last number of the Society's Journal.

"With the object of rendering the translation of Ibn Batúta's Travels—offered to the Society by Mr. Albert Gray in 1881—more valuable by the accurate identification of places, proof sheets of the Ceylon portion printed side by side with Dr. Lee's version were distributed among members and others whose assistance were courted. Some excellent suggestions have been received, and these, with Mr. Gray's own notes and others which the Hon. Secretary (Mr. H. C. P. Bell, C.C.S.,) will be in a position to supply for the section relating to the Máldives, will ensure an interesting and important addition to our knowledge of the history of Ceylon and its dependency.

"*Library.*—By presentations and purchase the library has gained a considerable accession of books and pamphlets. A catalogue on the alphabetic system has at length been compiled—thanks in great measure to the generous aid of one of our members, Mr. W. E. Davidson, C.C.S. The want had begun to be seriously felt owing to the very considerable additions with which the library had been enriched since the issue of the last catalogue in 1870. This had long been out of print. "By the removal to the Museum building in 1876 of the books belonging to the Society"—we quote from the preface—"the majority of members was virtually debarred from the use of the library. This ban was but partially removed by subsequent resolutions of the Museum Committee. Its former privileges have now, however, been restored to the Society generally, whilst outstation members have the further boon secured to them of being enabled, under the new library rules, to take out books, &c." This will tend to minimize the disadvantage under which they labour of rarely being able to attend the Society's meetings, and be a fairer compensation than the receipt of the Transactions alone for their subscriptions.

"*Money.*—The Hon. Treasurer's statement of the year's accounts laid on the table shows a balance of Rs. 141·08. This is likely to be augmented before the close of the year by the recovery of subscriptions and entrance fees outstanding to the amount of Rs. 233. A large

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proportion of the funds, Rs. 607·54, has again been devoted to the purchase and binding of books for the library. The new catalogue cost Rs. 260·50—an exceptional charge which must be incurred periodically. Under special payments appear a grant to Mr. W. Guṇatilaka of Rs. 100 towards his edition of Pánini, and Rs. 59·08, five years' subscription to the Páli Text Society lately started in England. Against the balance, however, the prospective cost of the year's Journal must be set.

"*President's Address.*—The hurried departure of Mr. Bruce for his new sphere of work in Mauritius precluded the possibility of the usual address by the President at the annual meeting. The exhaustive address with which Mr. Bruce opened his tenure of the President's office last December gave earnest of a like interesting close to our Proceedings this year, and had circumstances allowed of Mr. Bruce's remaining a few weeks longer in Ceylon this anticipation would no doubt have been fulfilled. The letter of resignation which has been read was not needed to prove the sincere active interest Mr. Bruce ever continued to take in the Society. In recording its keen sense of the hearty and substantial aid rendered by Mr. Bruce, and its deep regret at losing him from the Society, your Committee is confident that it expresses the genuine feeling of the Society."

Mr. Capper proposed, and Mr. Wall seconded, that the Report be adopted.—*Carried.*

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Dr. The Honorary Treasurer in Account with the Royal Asiatic Society (Ceylon Branch.) **Cr.**

	Rs.	c.		Rs.	c.
To balance on 1st January	483	66	By W. Guṇatilaka, grant towards printing Pāṇini's Sutras	100	0
„ Amount of annual subscription, entrance fees, and sale of journals	1,068	28	„ Subscription to Páli Text Society (5 years) ...	59	8
			„ Advertising	74	17
			„ Books, purchase of and binding	607	54
			„ Carriage and cart hire	20	25
Amount of subscriptions and entrance fees outstanding ... ... } 233 0	—		„ Furniture	16	0
			„ Pay of Compositors	144	82
			„ „ peon	8	0
			„ Postage and freight	66	88
			„ Printing (catalogues, &c.)	285	50
			„ Stationery	22	37
			„ Sundries	6	25
			„ Balance at O. B. C.	141	8
Total ... Rs.	1,551	94	Total ... Rs.	1,551	94

22nd December, 1882.

A. H. Dean,
Honorary Treasurer.

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LIST OF MEMBERS.

(*Corrected up to December* 31*st*, 1882.)

Life Members.

Copleston, Reginald, The Right Reverend D.D., Lord Bishop of Colombo.
Davids, T. W. Rhys.
Dawson, R.
Ferguson, A. M., C.M.G.
Ferguson, A. M., Jr.
Ferguson, D. W.
Ferguson, J.
Grant, J. N.
Gunn, J.
Nicholson, Rev. J.

Honorary Members.

Gray, A.
Holdsworth, E.
Künté, M. M.
De Zoysa, L., Mahá Mudaliyár.
Military Medical Officers in Ceylon.

Ordinary Members.

Alwis, Hon. A. L. De
Arneil, J. A.
Bailey, J. B. A., C.C.S.
Baumgartner, G. A., C.C.S.
Bell, H. C. P., C.C.S.
Berwick, T.
Blair, W.
Boake, W. J. S., L.R.C.S., C.C.S.
Boyd, Rev. C.
Browne, G. D. L., C.C.S.
Burrows, S. M., C.C.S.
Capper, J.
Carbery, J., M.B., C.M.
Churchill, J. F., M.I.C.E.
Clarke, A.
Coghill, J. D. M., M.D.
Conolly, P. W., C.C.S.
Coomára Swámy, P.
Crawford, M. S., C.C.S.
Cull, J. B., M.A.
Daendliker, P.
Davidson, W. E., C.C.S.
Dean, J. G.
Dias, C. P., Mahá Mudaliyár.
Dias, W.A., M.D., *St. Andrew's*, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., *England.*
Dickman, C., C.C.S.
Dickson, Hon. J. F., M.A., C.C.S.
Dixon, A. C., B. S.C., F.C.S.
Douglas, Hon. J., C.M.G.
Duncan, W. H. G., F.R.G.S.
Dunlop, C. E., C.C.S.
Edmonds, C., C.C.S.
Elliott, E., C.C.S.
Ewing, A., Major.
Ferguson, W., F.L.S.
Fernando, Rev. C. J. B., O.S.B.
Fowler, G. M., C.C.S.
Freüdenberg, P.
Fyers, Hon. Col. A. B., R.E.
Green, H.W., C.C.S.
Green, S.
Grenier, J.
Grenier, S., J.P.
Grinlinton, J. J. C.E., F.R.G.S.
Guṇatilaka, W.
Guṇaratna, E. R., Atapattu Mudaliyár.
Haines, W. G., C.C.S.
Hill, G. C., B.A.
Hope, Adrian.
Ievers, R. W., M.A., C.C.S.
James, W.K., F.R.G.S., F.R. HIST. S.
Jayatilaka, S., Mudaliyár

Jayawardana, A., Mudaliyár
Kásipiḷḷai, N. P.
Kynsey, W. R, M.K.Q.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I.
Lawrie, A. C.
Lee, L. F., C.C.S.
Le Mesurier, C. J. R., C.C.S.
Lewis, F.
Lewis, J. P., M.A., C.C.S.
Lloyd, T. H.
Loos, F. C.
Loos, J., M.D., *St. Andrew's*, M.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., *Edinburgh*.
Mason, J. D., C.C.S.
Miller, Rev. E. F., M.A.
Morgan, J. F., M.R.C.S., *England*, M.B., C.M., *Aberdeen*.
Moss, A. S., A.M.I.C.E., F.M.S.
Moysey, H. L., C.C.S.
Nell, L.
Nevill, A., C.C.S.
Newton, Rev. H., M.A.
Noyes, E. T., C.C.S.
Perera, E. F.
Perera, J., Mudaliyár
Perera, J. M.
Pieris, J. M. P., Mudaliyár
Plaxton, J. W., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.
Price, F. H., C.C.S.
Pyemont-Pyemont, L. O., C.C.S.
Rájapaksa, S. D'A. W., J.P., Mudaliyár
Ráma-Náthan, Hon. P., J.P.
Raṇasiṇha, W. P.
Ravenscroft, Hon. W. H., C.C.S.
Robinson, E.
Rockwood, W. G., M.D., *Madras*.
Sajarajasinham, N.
Saram, J. H. De, C.C.S.
Saunders, Hon. F. R., C.C.S.
Saxton, G. S., C.C.S.
Seneviratna, J. De
Sharpe, W. E. T., C.C.S.
Skeen, W. L. H.
Soysa, C. H. De, J.P.
Stoddart, H. J.
Tate, L. J. E. G., C.C.S.
Thomas, A. H.
Trimen, H., M.B., F.L.S.
Van Cuylenberg, H.
Vanderstraaten, J. L. M.D., M.R.C.P., *St. Andrew's*; L.S.A., *London*; L.R.C.S., *Edinburgh*.
Van Dort, W. G., M.D., C.M., *Aberdeen*.
Wace, H., C.C.S.
Wall, G. F.R.A.S., F.L.S.
Wardrop, J. G.
White, H., C.C.S.
Worthington, G. E., C.C.S.
Wragg, W. T., B.A, C.C.S.

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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

(CEYLON BRANCH.)

The Asiatic Society of Ceylon was instituted 7th February, 1845, and by the unanimous vote of a Special General Meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, held on the 7th February, 1846, it was declared a branch of that Society, under the designation of "The Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society."

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Preamble.

1. The design of the Society is to institute and promote inquiries into the History, Religions, Languages, Literature, Arts, and Social Condition of the present and former inhabitants of this Island, with its Geology and Mineralogy, its Climate and Meteorology, its Botany and Zoology.

Members.

2. The Society shall consist of Resident or Ordinary, Honorary, and Corresponding members; all elected by ballot at a General Meeting of the Society.

(*a*) Members residing in Ceylon are considered Resident.

(*b*) Persons who contribute to the objects of the Society in an eminent and distinguished manner are, on the recommendation of the Committee, eligible as Honorary members.

(*c*) All Military Medical Officers in Ceylon are Honorary members of the Society.

(*d*) Persons residing at a distance from Colombo may, upon special grounds, and on the recommendation of the Committee, be elected Corresponding members.

Entrance Fee and Subscriptions.

3. Every *Ordinary* member of the Society shall pay, on admission, an entrance fee of Rs. 5·25, and an annual subscription of Rs. 10·50. Annual subscriptions shall be considered due on the 1st of January of each year. Members who fail to pay their subscriptions by the end of the year (provided they have been called for) shall be considered, *ipso facto*, to have relinquished their connection with the Society. Members who have been absent from Ceylon have the privilege of rejoining the Society within twelve months of their return to the Island, on payment of the subscription for the current year.

(*a*) The privilege of *Life membership* may be ensured by the payment of:—(i) Rs. 105, with entrance fee on admission to the Society; (ii) Rs. 84, after two years' subscription; (iii) Rs. 73·50, after four or more years' subscription.

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(*b*) *Honorary* and *Corresponding* members shall not be subject to any entrance fee or subscription, and are to be admitted to the meetings of the Society and to the privilege of its library, but are not competent to vote at meetings, to be elected to any of its offices, or take any part in its private business.

(*c*) Persons desirous of rejoining the Society may be re-admitted members without entrance fee, subject to the discretion of the Managing Committee.

Office-bearers.

4. The office-bearers of the Society shall be, a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, all appointed by open vote at the Annual Meeting of the Society; and their functions shall be as follows:—

(*a*) The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, shall take the Chair at all Meetings of the Society and of the Committee, maintain order, collect the votes, and cause the laws of the Society to be observed and enforced.

(*b*) The Treasurer shall receive, collect, and pay out all moneys on behalf of the Society, keep an account thereof, including the vouchers, and submit a statement of the pecuniary affairs of the Society to the Annual Meeting and at all other times as may be required.

(*c*) The Secretary shall arrange, give notice of, and attend all meetings of the Society and of the Committee, and record their proceedings. He shall also edit the Journal, and exercise a general superintendence under the authority of the Committee.

In the event of any office-bearer leaving the Colony for three (3) months, it shall be competent for the Committee to fill up the office at the next General Meeting.

Committee.

5. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee of nine members (with power to add to their number) in addition to office-bearers, and elected in like manner; but subject always to the rules and regulations passed at General Meetings. Three to form a quorum.

Mode of Admission.

6. Members desirous of proposing candidates for admission to the Society shall give notice to the Secretary, in writing, at least a fortnight before the assembly of any General Meeting. Admission to membership of the Society shall be by ballot at any General Meeting. No candidate to be considered as elected unless he has two-thirds of the votes taken in his favour.

Meetings.

7. An Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held in December, and General Meetings at such other times as may be determined

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by the Committee; due notice of the meetings, of any intended motions which do not come through the Committee, and the nomination of new members, being always first given by the Secretary.

8. The course of business at General Meetings shall be as follows:—

(*a*) The Minutes of the last meeting shall be read by the Secretary, and signed by the Chairman.

(*b*) Candidates for membership shall then be proposed, ballotted for, admitted or otherwise.

(*c*) Reports of Committees shall be read, and communications made of all articles received, and donations to the Society.

(*d*) Any specific business submitted by the Committee, or appointed for consideration, shall be proceeded with.

(*e*) Papers and communications for the Society shall then be read.

9. Every member of the Society has the privilege of introducing, either personally or by card, one or two visitors to the General Meetings.

10. Special Committees may be formed for the prosecution of any specific object or matter of research. These must be named at a General Meeting, and will act as much as possible in co-operation with the Secretary of the Society, who will be a constituent member of all such Committees.

Papers and Communications.

11. All Papers and communications shall be forwarded to the Secretary at least a fortnight before the assembling of the General Meeting at which they are intended to be read. Such Papers shall be read by the author, or the Secretary, or by some member of the Society.

12. All Papers and other communications to the Society read or submitted at any General Meeting shall be open to free discussion; and such Papers and discussions may be printed in the Transactions of the Society, if approved by the Committee.

13. The writer of any Paper which is published in the Society's Journal shall be entitled to receive twenty-five printed copies of his Paper.

Journals.

14. One copy of each Journal shall be sent by the Secretary to every member who has paid his subscription for the current year, and to every honorary member; and every such member may procure a second copy on application to the Secretary. Members requiring more than two copies of the Journal can be supplied with them at half the price charged the public.

Suspension and Alteration of Rules.

15. It shall be competent for any General Meeting to suspend any of the above rules.

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16. No alteration of rules shall be made except at the Annual Meeting, and unless carried by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present; due notice of any proposed alteration having been given in writing to the Secretary at least a fortnight before the meeting.

RULES FOR THE LIBRARY.

1. The library is open on week days (except Fridays) from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M., and on Sundays from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M.

2. The Librarian shall keep a register of books belonging to the library, showing their title, name of author, date of receipt, whence obtained, edition, number of volumes, number of plates, place and date of publication.

3. All books, pamphlets and periodicals received for the library shall, immediately on receipt, be entered in the library register, and stamped with the library stamp. The Librarian shall see that each plate and map in books received for the library is carefully stamped on the reverse side with the library stamp. New books received shall be stamped on the cover with the words "Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch."

4. A book shall be kept in which shall be entered the title of every work lent out, the number of plates (if any) it contains at the time of its being lent, the name of the member borrowing the same, and the date on which it is lent. A member applying in person for a work shall sign a receipt for the book and plates it may contain at the time of borrowing. A member not applying in person shall send a written request for the books he requires, and this request shall be filed in the library as a voucher, the Librarian duly noting on it the books actually lent out. The Librarian shall send with each packet of books a form of receipt, to be signed and returned to the borrower. Should any member prefer to keep a private register of books borrowed from the library, it shall be the duty of the Librarian to enter in such register the names of all books issued, and to initial receipt when returned.

5. On return of any books to the library, the Librarian, after satisfying himself that the book is in the same condition as it was when lent out, shall insert opposite to the entry, in the loan register, the date on which the book has been returned, and return to the borrower the receipt or other voucher given by him duly cancelled. And if on the return of any book the Librarian shall perceive that it has sustained any damage, since it was taken from the library, he shall make a note of the particulars and report the same to the Honorary Secretary.

6. No member shall remove any book, pamphlet, periodical, or any other article the property of the Society from the library without giving the Librarian a receipt for the same.

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7. No book, pamphlet, journal, or periodical, &c., shall be lent out before the expiration of one week after its receipt in the library.

8. Periodicals and unbound Journals in numbers shall be returned after the expiration of one week.

9. Works of reference and certain rare and valuable books, &c., must not be taken out of the library without special permission of the Committee.

10. Non-resident members are entitled to take out books, plates, &c., from the library on making special application to the Honorary Secretary, and signing an obligation to defray the expenses of carriage, and to make compensation for any book, plate, manuscript, &c., which may be lost or damaged.

11. No member shall be permitted to have more than three sets* of books from the library in his possession at any one time without the special permission of the Honorary Secretary.

12. Except with the special sanction of the Committee, resident members shall not be permitted to keep books, &c., borrowed from the library for more than fourteen days, and non-resident members for more than one month.

13. All books, except in the case stated below, shall be returned to the library before the 1st January in each year. Early in December the Librarian, having previously ascertained that the books are actually absent from the library, shall forward to all members who have books belonging to the Society in their possession a letter requesting that such books be returned before the end of the month. Non-resident members who on the 1st January have had books, &c., for less than one month may send a detailed list of such books instead of returning them.

14. The Librarian shall report to the Honorary Secretary, for the information of the Committee, each year in January, the names of all books not returned, and of the members by whom they were borrowed.

15. If application be made to the Librarian for a book already taken out from the library, he shall issue a notice to the borrower, requiring him to return it free of expense, within one week from the receipt of such notice if a resident member, and within one month if a non-resident member.

16. If any book borrowed from the library be lost, damaged, defaced by writing or otherwise, the borrower shall be held responsible for such loss or damage; and if the book belong to a set, he shall be liable to make good the set to the satisfaction of the Committee, or pay its value.

17. No books, &c., shall be issued from the library to any member while he retains any property of the Society in contravention of the above rules.

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* Each volume of the Transactions of any learned Society or similar publication shall be counted as one work.

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